

Family TableTalk

Conversation 79

The Accuser and The Advocate

read

Zechariah 3:1-5; 1 John 2:1

think

Imagine this scene. Pretend you're in a movie. You can close your eyes if you want to.

You look up, and you're standing at the doors of a courtroom. This is where people go who are accused of a crime, and it will be decided whether they are innocent or guilty. As soon as you walk in, the doors shut behind you. In front of you are three figures: a

man on the left, a man on the right, and a judge sitting up in his massive chair. This judge has the power to label you "innocent" or "guilty."

Your trial begins. The man on the left stands up first. He's the prosecutor, wearing an all-black suit. His job is to convince the judge that you are guilty. How does he do this? He opens his briefcase, and begins to read a list. A long list. On this list is everything wrong you have ever done, thought, or said.

The time you cussed out that person because you were angry.

The time you imagined that person with no clothes on, and kept imagining.

The time you did something you're too afraid to tell anyone else about.

The time you thought you were better than that other person.

Every single sin. And it took a long time to read. By the time he's done, your stomach is in more knots than a sailor could tie in a lifetime. At the same time, you want to cry out, and you want to run and hide. But you can't do anything. You just stand there. Paralyzed. Uncertain.

Then the man on the right stands up. He's the defender, wearing an all-white robe. His job is to convince the judge that you are innocent. How does he do this? He says nothing, but raises his nail-scarred hands for the judge to see. Immediately, the judge slams his gavel. The prosecutor's papers are burned, and he's forcibly removed from the courtroom. The defender lowers his hands, takes your hand in his, and walks you up to the judge, who has already stepped down from his massive chair. He hugs you and calls you his dear child, because he isn't just your judge. He's your father.

Praise Jesus for what he does for us!

apply

- If Satan is our Accuser, what kinds of things does he accuse people of? Do you ever feel him accusing you of anything?
- Listen to the song (or read the words of) "Before The Throne Of God Above." What parts do you like? What parts are you unsure about?
- Since Jesus is our Advocate, how can you live in the peace of mind that this brings?

pray

Lord Jesus, when our Enemy tempts us to despair, and tells us of the guilt within, help us look upward and see you there, who made an end to all our sin. Please protect us from temptation, and deliver us from evil. Help us experience your forgiveness, and then extend forgiveness to others. Only you can do any of this. We pray to you because we trust you. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

by Jason Kriaski

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