

Conversations with Jesus : Jesus and His Father

a message for the **Abundant Life Class** at Gulf Coast Baptist Church

by Steve Thomas 7-23-26

Introduction

One of the fascinating things about the Trinity is to have three beings share essence and yet have different personalities. When Jesus came to earth, He took on a human form that was 100% human. It could be weary, get sick, need food and water, and even die. But even before His incarnation, Jesus had “conversations” with the other members of the Trinity. In theology, “the decree” refers to God’s eternal, sovereign plan for the universe, formulated outside of time. “Creation” is the actual, physical realization of that decree within time. The distinction highlights God’s timeless nature and His active control over history. There are several instances revealed in the scriptures where the Godhead shared information with each other. This interaction with creation demonstrates that God is not an “absentee father”, He has remained involved in the universe to bring things about according to His plan.

Before creation and in Old Testament “divine deliberation” texts

1. God says, “Let us make man” Genesis 1:26

This is the earliest plural divine speech in Scripture: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” In Christian theology, this is often treated as a window into intra-Godhead deliberation, though other readings exist.

2. God says, “The man has become like one of us” Genesis 3:22

After the fall, the Lord God says, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil.” Again, many Christians see this as plural divine self-reference. Satan’s lie had the semblance of truth.

3. God says, “Let us go down” Genesis 11:7

At Babel, God says, “Come, let us go down and there confuse their language.” This is another classic plural-speech passage. God’s plan is tested by sin.

4. “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Isaiah 6:8

In Isaiah’s call vision, the Lord says, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” The singular-plural shift has often been read by Christians as suggestive of plurality within the divine counsel. God includes the saints in the carrying out of His plan. Believers are able to participate in what God will bring about.

5. “The Lord God has sent me, and his Spirit”

Isaiah 48:16 contains a striking triadic-sounding line: “And now the Lord God has sent me, and his Spirit.” Christian readers often connect this with Father, Son, and Spirit language, though the speaker’s identity is debated. Verses 12 and 13 leave little doubt that the second person of the Trinity is speaking and is referring to His Father and the Holy Spirit here.

6. “You are my Son” / “The LORD says to my Lord”

Psalm 2 and Psalm 110 preserve speech later applied to Christ in the New Testament: “You are my Son” and “The LORD says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand’.” These are not Gospel scenes, but they become foundational Father-Son texts in Christian interpretation.

During Jesus’ earthly ministry

7. At Jesus’ baptism Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 9:35

When Jesus is baptized, the Father speaks from heaven. Matthew gives, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” while Mark and Luke give the direct-address form, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” The Spirit descends as well, making this one of the clearest triune scenes in the Gospels.

8. Jesus thanks the Father for revealing truth to “little children” Matthew 11:25-27; Luke 10:21-22

Jesus says, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,” because the Father has hidden these things from the wise and revealed them to little children. He then speaks of the unique mutual knowledge between Father and Son.

9. At the transfiguration Matthew 17:1–8, Mark 9:2–8, and Luke 9:28–36.

The Father again speaks from the cloud: “This is my beloved Son ... listen to him,” with Luke reading, “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” This is the second major public heavenly declaration over Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels.

10. At Lazarus’s tomb John 11:41-42

Jesus prays, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me.” No audible reply is recorded, but Jesus explicitly says the Father hears him.

11. In Jerusalem before the passion John 12:28

Jesus says, “Father, glorify your name,” and a voice comes from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” This is the clearest direct verbal exchange between Jesus and the Father in John.

12. The High Priestly Prayer

In John 17, Jesus addresses the Father at length: “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son,” “glorify me ... with the glory that I had with you before the world existed,” “Holy Father, keep them in your name,” and “you loved me before the foundation of the world.” No spoken reply is recorded, but this is the fullest preserved Father-Son prayer in Scripture.

John 17:1 Jesus to the Father “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you.” 17:5 Pre-existence / shared glory “Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.” 17:11 Protection of

disciples “Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.” 17:15 Preservation “I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.” 17:17 Sanctification “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” 17:21 Unity “That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you.” 17:24 Eternal love / glory “Father, I desire that they also... may be with me where I am, to see my glory... because you loved me before the foundation of the world.” 17:26 Revelation of the Father “I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known...”

13. In Gethsemane

Jesus prays, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” Mark preserves “Abba, Father,” and Luke records, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” No audible reply is recorded.

14. From the cross Luke 23:34

Jesus says, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do,” and later, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” Matthew also records, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” No audible answer from heaven is recorded.

Apostolic reflection on Father-Son speech

15. Hebrews presents the Father speaking to the Son

Hebrews 1 quotes several texts as divine speech concerning the Son: “You are my Son,” “I will be to him a father,” “Let all God’s angels worship him,” and “Sit at my right hand.” Hebrews 5 also says Jesus offered up prayers “with loud cries and tears” and “he was heard.”

Conclusion

Much can be learned from a study of the communication among the Godhead, especially between the Father and the Son. The attributes of God are reaffirmed and the plan of God is seen to be carried out. God’s grace, as well as His holiness and love are all visible in these words.