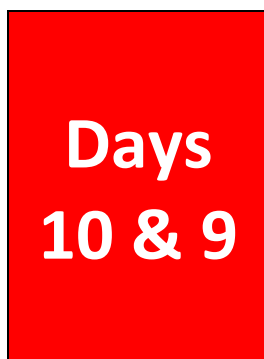


Second Wednesday in Advent – 2024

Wednesday, 12/11 at 11 am & 7 pm



Text: Matthew 5:3-10; Romans 12:6-8 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This is **Part 2** of a 6-Part sermon series on “**The 12 Days of Christmas.**”

1. **Historical Summary:**

- a. Which 12 Days? December 25 to January 5.
- b. Who Was Persecuted? In England in **1558**, “**Teaching the Catholic faith was outlawed** [Queen Elizabeth severely persecuted Catholics from **1558** to 1603)]. **Those who instructed their children in Catholicism could be drawn and quartered.**”
- c. Why Was the Poem Written? Members of the clergy wrote poems to *disguise their teachings*. One poem is **The 12 Days of Christmas.**¹
- d. What Is the Content? God the Father, our “**True Love,**” is giving 12 gifts to His children (*to all who trust in Jesus’ alone for eternal life*). We do not accept all RC teachings, *but we agree with their poem!*

¹ Ace Collins, Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003, 163.

e. How Did the Poem become a Song? “The English composer Frederic Austin turned the poem, **The 12 Days of Christmas**, into a song in 1909. Austin adapted the poem’s words to a traditional folk tune. The song is a [growing] carol that describes the gifts given each day of the Twelve Days of Christmas [and promotes memorization].”²

2. **Day 10 – Ten Lords A-Leaping** (see Part 1 for days 12 and 11): **Day 10 – The Ten Commandments**. A “lord” is a *master* or *ruler*; he makes commands and expects them to be followed, thus **Ten Lords A-Leaping!**

a. Words and Phrases that Summarize Each Commandment (these are included in the *Small Catechism Explanation, 1991 version*):

- i. **(1) God** – *You shall have no other gods.*
- ii. **(2) God’s Name** – *You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.*
- iii. **(3) God’s Word** – *Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.*
- iv. **(4) God’s Representatives** – *Honor your father and your mother.*
- v. **(5) God’s Gift of Life** – *You shall not murder.*
- vi. **(6) God’s Gift of Marriage** – *You shall not commit adultery.*
- vii. **(7) God’s Gift of Possessions** – *You shall not steal.*

² “When was the 12 Days of Christmas poem turned into a song?” Google, Generative AI.

viii. **(8) God's Gift of a Good Reputation** – *You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.*

ix. **(9 & 10) God's Gift of Contentment** – *You shall not covet [dead things nor living things]. Dead things: neighbor's house; living things: neighbor's wife, servants, and animals.*

b. Why Keep the Commandments? NOT to make ourselves right in God's sight (**Rom. 3:20**), BUT to express our love for our Heavenly Father (**Deut. 6:24**).

c. Action: Note down wherever we are falling short and ask the LORD for ♦forgiveness and ♦help.

3. **Day 9 – Nine Ladies Dancing: The Nine Parts of the Fruit of the Spirit**. The Holy Spirit is sometimes *the forgotten Person of the Holy Trinity*, but He is very important!

a. The Holy Spirit Gave Us Faith:

i. **1 Corinthians 12:3** “...no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.”

ii. **Nicene Creed**: “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life...” How did He give us life? *By giving us faith in Jesus!*

b. The Holy Spirit Is In Us: **Acts 2:38** Peter said to [the contrite sinners], “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

- c. The Holy Spirit Wants to Fill Us: Paul wrote, “...**be filled with the Spirit...**” (Eph. 5:18).
- d. The Holy Spirit Wants to Show in Our Lives: How does that happen? As an apple tree identifies itself by producing apples, *we identify ourselves as Spirit-filled believers by showing forth the fruit of the Spirit in our daily lives: Galatians 5:22-23* “...the fruit of the Spirit is
- i. **Love** – honoring God, helping others!
 - ii. **Joy** – inner happiness!
 - iii. **Peace** – harmony with God and others!
 - iv. **Patience** – quietness in the face of difficulties!
 - v. **Kindness** – generosity!
 - vi. **Goodness** – willingness to give or share!
 - vii. **Faithfulness** – trust in God’s promises!
 - viii. **Gentleness** – “*strength that accommodates to another’s weakness*” (BW, Friberg).
 - ix. **self-control** – controlling ourselves.
- e. Action: Let us intentionally grow in our showing forth of the Spirit in our lives!

Join us next Wednesday to keep learning the song, growing in Jesus, and getting ready to celebrate His birth!

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, *our True Love*, TYSM for the 12 precious gifts identified in the song. Help us to keep ▶learning them, ▶applying them, and ▶living them unto Your glory!

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