

The Nativity of Our Lord – 2024
Tuesday, 12/24 – Christmas Eve at 4 pm



Text: John 20:31; 1 Corinthians 13:13 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This is **Part 5** of a **6-Part sermon series** on **The 12 Days of Christmas**. Some of you have heard each part of the series: *Thanks for being faithful!*

For Others, Here Is Some Basic Information:

- Which 12 Days? December 25 through January 5.
- Why the Song? Due to severe persecution, it was written as a poem in **1558** to *disguise important Bible teachings*. It was set to music in **1909**.
- Who are the Singers? The singers are people who trust in Jesus for eternal life. They sing about the goodness of their **True Love, God the Father**, because He has gifted them with **12 precious Bible-related gifts**.
- In this Series: We are moving from **gift 12** to **gift 1**.

These are the Gifts We have Covered So Far:

- **Day 12** – **Twelve Drummers Drumming**, which point to **The 12 points of belief in the Apostles' Creed**.

- **Day 11 – Eleven Pipers Piping**, which point to **The 11 faithful disciples**.
- **Day 10 – Ten Lords A-Leaping**, which point to **The 10 Commandments**.
- **Day 9 – Nine Ladies Dancing**, which point to **The 9 Parts of the Fruit of the Spirit**.
- **Day 8 – Eight Maids A-Milking**, which point to **The 8 Beatitudes**, which begin the Sermon on the Mount.
- **Day 7 – Seven Swans A-Swimming**, which point to **The 7 Gifts of the Spirit**.
- **Day 6 – Six Geese A-Laying**, which point to **The 6 Days of Creation**.
- **Day 5 – Five Golden Rings**, which point to **The First 5 Books of the Bible**.

Today: We focus on Days 4 & 3; tomorrow, Days 2 & 1.

1. **Day 4 – Four Calling Birds: The Four Gospel Accounts – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John**. They called out to the world with the soul-saving truth of Jesus!
 - a. A Summary: Moved by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21), each Gospel writer wrote about Jesus’
 - ♦ **life**, ♦ **death**, ♦ **resurrection**, and ♦ **return**!
 - i. Jesus’ Life – *living without sin for us!*
 - ii. Jesus’ Death – *paying our eternal penalty!*
 - iii. Jesus’ Resurrection – *showing His victory!*
 - iv. Jesus’ Return – Since he could come at any moment, *it is of UTMOST IMPORTANCE* to
 - ♦ recognize our helplessness, ♦ trust in Jesus’

alone for heaven, and put Him first in our daily lives!

- b. The Audience of Each Writer (Google AI):
 - i. **Matthew** – “Written for Jewish people...”
 - ii. **Mark** – “Written for... Gentiles...”
 - iii. **Luke** – “Written for Greeks...”
 - iv. **John** – “Written for everyone...”
- c. The Purpose of All Four Accounts: John 20:31
“...these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.” // God’s Son came down from heaven and put on human flesh; *at Christmastime we celebrate His birthday*. But that is NOT the end of the story: **He was born TO DIE – for you and me!**
Let us love Him, trust Him, and honor Him!

2. Day 3 – Three French Hens: **The Three Great Blessings – Faith, Hope, and Love.**

- a. Faith – Is trust in Jesus for eternal life!
- b. Hope – Is certainty that God will fulfill every promise!
- c. Love – Is what believers show toward God and others, now and forever!
- d. The Bible Says: 1 Corinthians 13:13 ...now faith, hope, love, abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. // Why is love the greatest?
 - i. **Faith is temporary** – until we SEE Jesus!

- ii. **Hope is temporary** – *until God’s last promise is FULFILLED!*
- iii. **But love is eternal** – as ❤️ **God** keeps showering His love upon us – *His holy children*, and ❤️ **we** keep showing true love toward God and each other forevermore!

Conclusion: You can pick up a **12 Days of Christmas** brochure in the Narthex. Since tomorrow is **The First Day of Christmas**, I ♦ urge you, ♦ challenge you, ♦ double-dog dare you to do what the brochure says on each of **The 12 Days of Christmas**.

Please join us tomorrow at 10, as we conclude the series by focusing on **THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS!**

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, the Giver of every good gift, **TYSM** for the 12 Bible gifts contained in the song, **The 12 Days of Christmas**. Even though the world thinks the song is silly and foolish, bless us to ♦ rightly understand the song, ♦ share the content with others, and ♦ celebrate each of **The 12 Days of Christmas!**

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