Dear Families:

In class today, we read a portion of the Gospel of Matthew, in which Jesus is being challenged by the scribes and Pharisees. These leaders had been trying to get Jesus to make a mistake- and give them an excuse to arrest Him. Jesus, however, outwitted them at every turn.

The Pharisees ask Jesus one final question: which is the greatest commandment? The Pharisees and scribes were experts on Jewish law. Jewish law was lengthy and complicated! There were hundreds of pages! But Jesus answers them without hesitation. Jesus says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind. This is the first and most important commandment. The second commandment is like this one. And it is, love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hand all of the law and the prophets."

When we studied the Ten Commandments last year, we learned that what Jesus said is true. The first four commandments show us how to love God. The last six show us how to love others. If we just remember those two most important things, God will be pleased! But it's not enough to just remember them- we have to LIVE them. We need to be thinking about those two commandments ALL DAY, from the time we get up until we go to bed at night. In all of our work and play, we should be remembering, acting, thinking and praying those commandments.

Hard to believe, but Christmas will be here before we know it! Today the class also began preparations for our pageant, which will be held during worship service on Sunday, December 13. We hope you can join us for our special celebration of Jesus' birth!

Thank you for joining us today!

Carol McClellan

CE Director