Dear Families:

In class today, we studied a message in the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus told a parable about 10 bridesmaids, who were waiting for a groom to arrive at the wedding. In those days, there was no schedule: the groom had to go to the bride's house to talk to her family, then bring the bride back to his home. This could take a few minutes or several hours.

The bridesmaids had oil lamps to light the way for the wedding party. Five of the bridesmaids had brought extra oil in case there was a delay; five had not. As the hours dragged on, they all fell asleep. Suddenly, there was a cry: the groom was on his way! The bridesmaids woke up and began to ready their lamps. However, they had been waiting so long, the lamps had almost run out of oil. The unprepared bridesmaids asked the others to give them some oil. There was not enough to go around, so they had to run into town and find some. While they were gone, the groom arrived. Everyone went into the wedding feast, and the door was locked behind them. The five bridesmaids retuned from town and banged on the door, begging to be let in. But the groom said that he did not know them and told them to go away.

Talk about a hard lesson! However, it is an important one for us to hear if we don't want to be the ones turned away. God has given each of us a job to do: we are to worship Him and walk in His ways. We are to be responsible Christians, loving and serving the Lord day and night. We cannot just love God. The unprepared maids loved God. They desired to be with God in his kingdom. But they weren't responsible. It's not enough to love God. LIVING for God is a must. That is NOT easy! But we have to try- and try HARD. We can't just accept sin, excuse sin, or be too lazy to fight it. This story makes clear that God wants to let us into Heaven, but if we allow sin to live in our hearts and lives, we CHOOSE to get locked out. We can't serve God and man; we can't excuse sin. We must choose God over our sin. It's not easy, but with His help, we can repent and live Biblical lives.

Hard to believe, but Christmas will be here before we know it! Today the class also continued preparations for our pageant, which will be held during worship service on Sunday, December 20. We hope you can join us for our special celebration of Jesus' birth! Carol McClellan, CE Director