1. **Luke 3:17**

* What is the difference between “wheat” and “chaff” (in a literal sense)?
* What is a “winnowing fan” and how is it used?
* What might the “wheat” and “chaff” represent in a spiritual sense?
* What will the Messiah do with the “wheat”?
* What will the Messiah do with the “chaff”?
* **Matthew 13:1-9**
* In this parable, if the “seed” represents the people inhabiting the earth, who might the “Sower” be?
* Consider for a moment, that the “seed” represents a person, and reflect on each question below:

1. What type of person might the “seed” on the “path” represent?
2. What type of person might the “seed” on the “rocky ground” represent?
3. What type of person might the “seed” in the “thorns” represent?
4. What type of person might the “seed” on the “rich soil” represent?

* **Matthew 13:18-23**
* Reflect on Jesus’ words here and share what comes to mind.
* What do these verses all say to you as a follower of Jesus Christ?

1. **Luke 3:18-20**

* What does the scripture say John “preached”?
* **Isaiah 40:9-11**
* What is a “herald”?
* What is the “herald” bringing to the people in **Isaiah**?
* How might this passage in **Isaiah** relate to John the Baptist and Jesus Christ?
* **St. Ambrose** (339 AD – 397 AD) *Exposition of The Gospel of Luke 2.82*

“The Lord is said to have the right to distinguish merits. When the grain is winnowed on the threshing floor, the full grain is separated from the empty, the fruitful is separated from the worthless, as if by a weighing of a blowing breeze. So through this comparison, the Lord manifest, because on the day of judgment, he separates the merits and fruits of solid virtue from the unfruitful shallowness of worthless ostentation and inadequate deeds, before he establishes the people of perfect merit in a heavenly home. For he who has deserved to be like him is the perfect fruit. The Lord is like the grain of wheat that has died. So, he confers very many fruits on us, hated by chaff and no friends to worthless merits. And therefore, a fire that is not harmful by its nature will burn before him. For he who burns up the evils of wickedness adds to the radiance of goodness.”

* **Catechism of the Catholic Church 827**
* Please share something that was meaningful to you in today’s lesson.