1. **Luke 8:1-3**

* Why was Jesus journeying from “town” to town?
* Who accompanied Jesus?
* Reflect on those accompanying Jesus and state three societal classes each might fit into?
* What does this say about sinners who have been restored by God’s grace?
* What did the women accompanying Christ provide according to the scriptures?
* **Galatians 3:26-28, Acts 1:13-14, 2:41-47**
* Consider **Luke** and the other readings, what do they say to you about Christ’s Church?

1. **Luke 8:4-10**

* What did the disciples ask Jesus after he shared the parable?
* **Hosea 12:10-11, Ezekiel 21:1-7, Psalms 78:1-2**
* What does God reveal to us through his **prophets** and the **psalm**?
* **Isaiah 6:8-10**
* What does the reading in **Isaiah** have to do with Jesus’ response?
* **Luke 8:8, 10, Deuteronomy 29:3**
* What will be unique about the disciples of Christ when compared to others?
* **Isaiah 32:1-3**
* How might this reading relate to what we see taking place in the **Gospel**?
* Reflect on Jesus’ response to the disciples after the parable, what does this say to you about those diligently serving Christ and studying the word of God within the Church?
* What does this say to you about those outside (apart) from the Church trying to understand God’s word?

1. **Luke 8:11-15**

* Jesus himself explains this parable to us, please reflect for a moment on your own life and share what part of this parable’s explanation speaks to you, and share why it stands out?
* Share a moment when you experienced or observed “a seed on the path”.
* Share a moment when you experienced or observed a seed “on rocky ground”.
* Share a moment when you experienced or observed a seed on “thorns”.
* Share a moment when you experienced or observed a seed “on good soil”.
* **St. Cyril of Alexandria** (378 AD – 444 AD) *Commentary on Luke Sermon 41*

”The blessed prophets have spoken to us in manifold ways respecting Christ the Savior of all of us. For some proclaimed **Him** as a **Light** that was to come and others as **One** of **royal rank** and **greatness**. For one of them even says ‘Blessed is he who hath seed in Zion, and kinsmen in Jerusalem, for lo! Her **just king shall reign**, and **princes shall bear rule** with judgement. And that man shall be one that hides his words.’ For the word of the Savior is constantly, so to speak, hidden. So also, the blessed **Psalmist** has brough him before us saying ‘**I will open my mouth in parables**.’ See therefore that which was spoken by Him in old time has come to pass. For a large multitude was assembled around Him of people from all Judea, and **He spoke to them in parables**.”

* **St. Cyril of Alexandria** (378 AD – 444 AD) *Commentary on Luke Sermon 41*

***1*** ”A **pathway** always is hard and untilled, because it is exposed to everyone’s feet, nor is any seed admitted into it, but **lies rather upon the surface**, ready for any birds that will to **snatch it away**. All those, therefore, whose **mind is hard and unyielding**, and so to speak, pressed together, do not received the divine seed, for the divine and **sacred admonition finds no entrance into them**, nor do they accept the words that would **produce in them the fear of God**, and by means of which they could bring forth as fruits the glories of virtue.”

***2*** “And next let us also consider those others of whom Christ said, ‘And those **upon rock** are they who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, and they have no root, these for a while believe, and in time of temptation depart away.’ For there are verily **men whose faith has not be proved**, depending on words simply, and **not applying their mind to the examining of the mystery**, of such the piety is sapless and without root. For when they enter the churches, they **feel pleasure often in seeing so many assembled**, and joyfully receive instruction in the mysteries from him whose business it is to teach, and laud him with praises, but this they do with no discretion or judgment, but **with unpurified wills**, and when they have **gone out of the churches, at once they forget the sacred doctrines**, and proceed in their customary course, **not having stored up within them the faith** and that, so to speak, in a confused and tottering state.”

***3*** “But that which **fell among the thorns** are they who have heard, and by **cares**, and **wealth**, and **pleasures** of the world, **go and are choked, and yield no fruit**.”

***4*** “For men say, that the **best soils** do sometimes under cultivation produce a hundredfold, so that this is a **mark of every fertile and productive spot**. And of such it has been very justly said by one of the holy prophets at the mouth of God, ‘And all nations shall congratulate you; because **you are desirable land**.’ For when the **divine** word **falls upon a mind pure and skillful** in **cleansing itself** from things **hurtful**, it then fixes its **root deeply**, and **shoots up like an ear of corn**, and so to speak, being strong in blade and well flowered, **brings its fruit to perfection**.”