

In this lesson, Jesus is teaching in parables. Crowds are now gathering when he is teaching and preaching. Not everyone in the crowd is a disciple or believer. Jesus was preparing the Twelve for leadership roles in the Church by giving them insights and explanations beyond what he revealed to the “crowds.” There are miracles in this lesson also. Miracles are often classified as either 1) healings, 2) exorcisms, 3) nature miracles, or 4) resurrections (raising one from the dead).

**1. Thanksgiving is coming soon. What are you thankful for this year?**

**2. Read Luke 8:4-8 and footnotes. Who is the “sower” in this parable?**

**Luke 8:4-8** When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to him, he spoke in a parable. <sup>5</sup>“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. <sup>6</sup>Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. <sup>7</sup>Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup>And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold.” After saying this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear.”

**3. Read Luke 8:9-10 and footnotes, and Mark 4:10-12 and footnotes. Do the disciples of Jesus understand the parable? Reflection: Why does Jesus use parables to teach the crowds?**

**Mark 4:10-12** And when he was alone, those present along with the Twelve questioned him about the parables. <sup>11</sup>He answered them, “The mystery of the kingdom of God has been granted to you. **But to those outside** everything comes in parables, <sup>12</sup>so that ‘they may look and see but not perceive, and hear and listen but not understand, in order that they may not be converted and be forgiven.’”

**Luke 8:9-10** Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. <sup>10</sup>He answered, “Knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of God has been granted to you; but to the rest, they are made known through parables so that ‘they may look but not see, and hear but not understand.’”

**4. Read Luke 8:11-15 and footnotes. What is the seed? \_\_\_\_\_**

**What happens to the seeds on the path? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Why do the seeds on the rocky path “fall away?” \_\_\_\_\_**

**What are the thorns? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Who is it that bears good fruit? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Read Luke 8:16-18 and footnotes. This parable is about our response to hearing the Word of the Lord. What are we called to do?**

**Luke 8:16-18.** “No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel or sets it under a bed; rather, he places it on a lampstand so that those who enter may see the light. <sup>17</sup>For there is nothing hidden that will not become visible, and nothing secret that will not be known and come to light. <sup>18</sup>Take care, then, how you hear. To anyone who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he seems to have will be taken away.”

**5. Read Luke 8:22-25. What kind of miracle is this? What do we learn about Jesus here?**

**Luke 8:22-25** One day he got into a boat with his disciples and said to them, "Let us cross to the other side of the lake." So they set sail, <sup>23</sup>and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A squall blew over the lake, and they were taking in water and were in danger. <sup>24</sup>They came and woke him saying, "Master, master, we are perishing!" He awakened, rebuked the wind and the waves, and they subsided and there was a calm. <sup>25</sup>Then he asked them, "Where is your faith?" But they were filled with awe and amazed and said to one another, "Who then is this, who commands even the winds and the sea, and they obey him?"

**6. Read Luke 8:26-39 and footnotes. What in this story suggests that the man was a Gentile?**

**7. Where is it that the demons do *not* want to go in Luke 8:26-39?**

**8. Why did the towns people and the swineherds want Jesus to leave town?**

**9. Can you see a bit of *humor* or *irony* in the story of the Gerasene Demoniac?**