A Third Way: Seed & Soils | Matthew 13 | 22 September 2019

*And Jesus told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.” Matthew 13:3-9*

Our subject matter this week is taken from the parable of the sower in Mathew 13. I am using the following quote from Makoto Fujimura to give us focus. Following the quote, I offer three questions and a list of possible answers. I ask you to spend a bit of time creating your own question(s) and possible solutions. You can email them to me if you are unable to be at the Wednesday dialogue meeting at 9:00 AM for discussion.

I see in the parable of the soils a call to a specific kind of cultural work. The new life the seed carries is beyond our capacity to provide. But we can and must contribute to the soil in which it will grow, and our efforts can affect the seed’s fruitfulness. Culture care thus prepares the way for the gospel to spread. The tilling of the soil is the most important task we can do to prepare ourselves and our culture for the seeds of the gospel that God sows so lavishly. Makoto Fujimura, *Culture Care*, page 96

1. How is the soil of the earth like culture?
   1. It is made up of a hague-podge of living things and inorganic materials.
   2. It is where an abundance of life grows.
   3. It is a receptor of both good and bad things.
   4. It, in and of itself, cannot care for itself.
   5. It is created.
   6. Soil can be a nurturing environment for creativity.
2. How do we contribute to the soil?
   1. By caring or not caring for it.
   2. By paying attention to it.
   3. By learning and understanding its significance.
   4. By recognizing ways we can care for it.
   5. By working it.
3. What does “tilling the soil” mean to you?
   1. Definition: “to labor, as by plowing, harrowing; to strive after, get, cultivate.”
   2. How does this apply to the parable of Jesus?