

Break up your Fallow Ground

Hosea 10:12

"Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you."

Ranier Maria Rilke (1875-1926) was a German poet whose works elicit reflection on the mystical and existential realities. Below he describes the beautiful struggle of seeking, waiting, and potentiating breaking through.

In deep nights I dig for you like treasure.
For all I have seen
that clutters the surface of my world
is poor and paltry substitute
for the beauty of you
that has not happened yet...

My hands are bloody from digging
I lift them, hold them open in the wind,
so they can branch like a tree.

Reaching, these hands would pull you out of the sky
as if you had shattered there,
dashed yourself to pieces in some wild impatience.

What is this I feel falling now,
falling on this parched earth,
softly,
like a spring rain?

-Rainer Maria Rilke

We all find ourselves at different times and in different ways stuck without a sense of a next step. Hosea asks us to dig deep to seek and work at the difficult task of seeking God when we find ourselves in these places.

JJS

Point for Prayer:

What are some of the areas in your life that you feel have become fallow, unproductive, and cold? What would it take to break up the soil?