



An Introductory Email Series with Richard Rohr Unedited Transcript

Richard Rohr: I'm a very blessed man. I have a wonderful staff here that comes up with new and creative ideas that I would never think of myself, and they would like to offer a free resource to those of you who are interested called an Intro Email Message. It's going to come over a period of three weeks, every few days. You don't have to read it. But we've recognized that so many of the great Christian concepts are understood very often at a merely cultural level, which is frankly a superficial level. I know I've said in past years that a man who did a study on Luke's Gospel recognized that whenever Luke uses the word 'the crowd', both in his gospel and in Acts of the Apostles, it's almost a code word for superficial. In other words the crowd is almost always wrong. So, the wonderful gift we have here is to go just a little deeper than the normal, dominant, easy way of understanding most biblical themes. You've also heard me say probably too often that mystery is not something we can't understand, mystery is something that's infinitely understandable. There's always more, always more. And I guess we've had the time, certainly my Franciscan vocation has offered me the time and space to sometimes reflect on that "always more." So, we're going to do that initially with three great themes that we find are often not so well understood. Let me leave it at that. And those are going to be the Bible itself, the concept of Justice, which very often is used in a vengeful way instead of the way the Bible finally presents the text, and then, of course, that great mystery that Paul calls the mystery of the cross. The whole reflection on why suffering, what does suffering have to do with salvation, why is suffering dangerous, why is suffering also good. So, we're going to start off with these three themes. We're going to offer them to you, if you care to click and listen to them, and we hope that this might be another way that we can pass on wisdom here from our center in Albuquerque in a way that will truly help people. Remember, all spiritual wisdom is for the sake of liberation. If it isn't liberating humanity, the soul, human relationships, I don't think it's any good. I don't think it's spiritual. So, pray that we can do just that in the weeks ahead, and we invite you, if you're interested, to check out one or two of these Intro Email studies. Thank you.