



**Another Way to See Justice  
Video Trailer  
Unedited Transcript**

**Richard Rohr:** There's a biblical theme that has always been important, but it seems to have become extremely important in our time, frankly, because the word is so often misused. When I hear, most Americans at least, use the word "justice," they use it without knowing, in a rather limited sense. It usually means retribution or even vengeance, and that's not finally at all the biblical message. God brings justification or justice to God's people by fulfilling in them their deepest truth. Now, our word for that is 'restorative justice'. Not retribution but restoration. That is how God achieves justice. Now, I admit that most of us have to let go of the way we've usually used that word and be open to a new understanding. So, if we don't do that in our time I think we will continue to allow a very problematic and punishing understanding of the word "justice." If punishment is achieved, justice is done. I don't think that's the final biblical message at all. Now, I can understand our confusion, because even the prophets usually start with threats and punishment against Israel. But if you read the whole text, they always end with an offer of restoration, grace, mercy, compassion. "I'm going to out love you. I'm going to love you into wholeness." So, we think of wholeness as the elimination of the problem or the punishment of the problem. The biblical message is actually the overcoming of the problem, by ironically, forgiving it, reconciling it, integrating it. If you like psychological language, it's what we call the inclusion of the shadow. Not the elimination of the shadow, the owning of it and the overcoming of it. So, if that even intrigues you and you're still saying, "I don't know if I agree with that," that's all right. Stay with us and we'll try to help you to understand what I do think is the approach of the Jewish prophets and most especially of Jesus himself. We've got to get a better understanding of justice.