

## Study Guide for Chapter 10

### *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage* By Richard Rohr

#### **Discussion Questions**

#### **Chapter 10 — It All Comes Down to Love**

1. What are some common ways we “complicate” God’s divine, self-giving love for us?

#### **Becoming Conscious**

1. Why is it so easy to see the “demon” (evil) in others, and so difficult to see the same demon in ourselves?
2. To you, what is the difference between scapegoating/blaming and shining a light on the evil being perpetrated?

#### **God’s Love is the Standard**

1. Rohr says “...we [humans] see things as we are, and we have an unfortunate tendency to create God in our own image.” How has this hindered us in coming to a greater understanding of God?
2. Rohr says that people are seeing that traditional, law/ritual-based religion is not able to satisfy the need for a greater connection to the divine. Do you/how do you see this in our culture?

#### **The Obstacles to Love**

1. Rohr says that certainty, not doubt, is the opposite of faith. How do you understand that?

#### **Recovering Faithful Critics**

1. Rohr speaks of the need for true prophets to call groups to accountability. What would such a prophet look like in our church? In our political party? In our country?

#### **A Deeper Gospel of Unconditional Love**

1. Rohr says we need to give up our reward-punishment worldview, and how we think God works that way, and adopt a deeper gospel of unconditional love and respect. How does the story “The Angel with the Torch and the Pail” make this point?

#### **The Way of the Prophet**

1. Which of the characteristics of the Prophet stands out to you?
2. Which of the characteristics are we as a church/society/country most in need of?
3. Which of the characteristics would be most challenging to you to imitate?