



Describing and Defining Justice

Ohio Region 2024 International Affairs Seminar

Justice is first and foremost a relational term; people living in right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

Classically there are Four Types of Justice

All about deciding who gets what.

Distributive Justice

Think of this as economic justice. Here we are concerned with giving all members of society a "fair share" of the benefits, resources, and opportunities that are available.

All about how fairly people are treated.

Procedural Justice

This has to do with the ways that our laws are drawn up and lived out in community. Rules are to be impartially followed and consistently applied. Is everyone treated fairly and equally?

All about punishment for wrong doing.

Retributive Justice

We are more familiar with the term as "retribution." In this sense, when someone does something wrong they should be punished or 'pay the price' for their wrongdoing.

All about bringing relationships to rightness and balance

Restorative Justice

Note: Just because it uses the prefix 're' that doesn't mean that we are getting back to some pristine time. In many cases this kind of justice has only existed in stories, hopes, & ideals.



Spiritual Practice: Holy Readings of the News

adapted from Randy Kuss

A *Lectio Divina* Reading of Current Events

This form of spiritual reading of a story from the news is based on an old Benedictine spiritual discipline called “*Lectio Divina*”. We’ll bring that approach to a faithful reading of a news story.

What does Justice Look Like?

Read the news story aloud in a deliberate and unhurried way. Take in the passage and allow it to “register” with you.

While you are listening to the news story pay attention for images or words about justice that appear in the reading. What does justice look like?

Consider Distributive, Procedural, and Retributive types of Justice.

Read the first three definitions of the classical types of Justice: Distributive, Procedural, and Retributive.

Read the news story out loud again, listening for those types of justice in the story.

If sharing this practice in a group, invite everyone to share their words out loud along with the traditional type of justice that those words most represent.

What is God’s vision of Justice?

Read the description that “Justice is first and foremost a relational term” and then read the definition of Restorative Justice.

Read the news story out loud again, listening for words of hope and Restorative Justice.

What is God’s vision of Justice in this story?
How can we be a part of making that happen?

First Reading

Second Reading

Third Reading

