



Father Danny Murphy is a retired Pastor from Brooklyn NY. A gifted man with a God given talent to inspire and God's gift to us at Holy Cross Church in Vero Beach Florida. This is just one of his inspirational homilies.

## Danny Murphy – 21st Sunday of the Year 2016

I'm going to start with a silly story, which really is a sad excuse for a joke that very remotely ties in with today's Gospel. This guy goes to a fiery evangelical conference in a huge auditorium that is packed to the rafters. He spots a single empty seat right up front and he asks a woman in the next seat; "Is this seat saved?" "No," she replied, "but we're still praying for it!" It ties in with today's Gospel because someone asked Jesus: "Will only a few be saved?" What do you think? Will only a few be saved? Will YOU be saved? In the era in which I grew up, it seemed to me that often God was portrayed as angry and annoyed. He seldom smiled and was mostly in a bad mood. If you didn't sin and kept all the rules and regulations...then God love you. If you sinned and DIDN'T keep all the rules and

regulations...then God didn't love you. When you shaped up...God loved you. When you messed up, God didn't love you. Well...if that is who God is, then yes, only a few will be saved. And I surely will NOT be one of them!

My niece Molly lives in California. You have never met her so I can tell you this story and it won't embarrass her. Many years ago I went to visit my sister Kathleen and she asked me to hold her baby daughter, Molly while she went into the kitchen to prepare dinner. No sooner did she leave when Molly had a huge bowel movement. We're talking Number TWO! It smelled so awful, I could hardly breathe! And to make matters worse, she started drooling and spit up all over my shirt!. I was never so happy to see my sister return from the kitchen so I could return Molly to her! My sister was not upset by this at all. She said sweet things to Molly and got her to laugh and smile. She changed her diaper with delight saying: "what a wonderful girl you are!" Why did she react that way? Because Molly was her daughter whom she loved. Even though she had little hair, no teeth and smelled awful, she was Kathleen's beautiful little girl. And when I mess up, I am still belong to God even when I am in my mess! My sister didn't love her daughter for what she did, but for who she is – her beloved child. It is the exact same situation with us and God. We are always God's beloved child and always will be. God doesn't love us for what we did but for who we are, not as we should be because we can NEVER be as we SHOULD be. In all honestly, I have no fear of dying. I don't want to suffer, but if I do, Jesus will help me through it. I am sure I

will go straight to heaven, not because I'm so good, but because GOD'S so good! It's not for what I did, but for who I am. So someone asked Jesus: "will only a few be saved?" Will you be saved? What do you think?