



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.

Fr. Danny Murphy – 22nd Sunday of the Year 2016

In our Gospel this morning, Jesus preaches the parable about how in banquets and receptions, people vie for places of honor. Everyone wants to sit at table number one, nobody wants to sit at table number twenty-one. Why? Because, we want to feel important. It's not wrong, I think to want to feel important. The fact of the matter is, we all have importance. God says: "Before you were born, I knew you, I made you in your mother's womb, you are very precious in my sight and I love you." That's how important you are. Jesus says, "Not a hair on your head falls without your heavenly Father knowing it." That's how important you are. So, we all are important. What Jesus is teaching us in today's parable is WHY we are important. We are not important because of where we sit. We are important because of who we are. Who are we? We are God's beloved child – each

of us is. That's who we are and that's what makes us important. Sometimes we might think that we are important because for other reasons, reasons that will always fade and fail and leave us frustrated. Some common examples: Isn't it true that some wealthy people commit suicide when they are no longer wealthy? Do I think that having lots of money is what makes me important? Isn't it true that some students commit suicide when they don't live up to the level of academic excellence that they set for themselves or that other people set for them? Do I think that if I don't achieve I'm not important? Sometimes we might think that we are important because of our competency, our achievements, or our productivity. We may think that's what makes us important. But it isn't, because eventually your gifts and talents will fade and your productivity will lessen. And then what will we do? What do you think of this wisdom from the old sage: "If I am what I do, if I don't then I ain't." That's a classic, let me repeat it: "If I am what I do, when I don't then I ain't." Allow a personal comment. I am not a homilist, that's what I do, that's not who I am. Who I am is God's beloved child. What I do – sometimes I do well and sometimes not so well. Who I am, God's beloved child – never changes! Or, perhaps we think that our appearance is what makes us important. Now, It is good to have a nice appearance, but we have to remember that the clothes do not make the person. Whether I am slim and trim or somewhat fat and flabby, I am still me – I'm still God's beloved child. When I'm young and agile, or I'm old and achy, God is still crazy about me, because I'm still God's beloved child. So, we are important but it is not the degrees that make me important, not your achievements that

make you important, not your productivity nor your appearance nor is there anything else, you're important because you are God's beloved child. Some of you might remember or might have heard the story of Rose Parks. Rosa Parks was an African-American who in the summer of 1955 boarded a bus in Birmingham Alabama. She saw a seat up front and she took it. Almost immediately she was challenged: "Do you know who you are? You can't sit there!" Rosa was on her way home, hot and tired from a long day at work. She smiled and said: "Yes I do know who I am, and that's why I'm sitting here. God taught me who I am. God taught me I am his precious beloved child, that's who I am." And that's who each of us is. Do you know who you are? "Have you seen with my eyes, have you read what I said in my Word. Do know who you are? If I am the Father then you are the child. Behold, in my eyes there is no one like you. Do you know WHOSE you are?"