



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 – 22nd Sunday of the Year 2018

This evening you and I are going to reflect together on this sentence from our second reading. St. James tells us: "Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you." But before we do that, let's do this: You and I just sang five times, our Responsorial Psalm: "The One who does Justice will live in the Presence of the Lord." Certainly, I want to live in the presence of the Lord. You want to live in the presence of the Lord, too, don't you? Well, the psalmist says, the way you live in the presence of the Lord is by doing justice. Could we pause for a moment, now so that each of us can ponder: How can I do justice? (Pause) OK, let's reflect together now on this sentence from our second reading: "Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you." In a moment, I am going to share with you some words

from scripture that hopefully we can welcome into our lives. It seems to me that we won't be able to welcome THOSE words, unless we first welcome THESE words when Jesus says to us: "Without me, you can do nothing, but if you live in me and I live in you, you will bear much good fruit." You got that? Now, let's take a look first at these words that hopefully we can welcome into our lives, from St. Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells us: "Love your enemies, pray for them, bless them – do not curse them." Imagine, for a moment, if you would, that you are the parents of a young woman who was brutally raped and sodomized. Jesus says these words to you: "Love her attacker, pray for him, bless him, do not curse him." There is no way that you could welcome those words into your life without Jesus. But if you live in him and he lives in you, you can! Wow! What about these words from St. Paul: "Dismiss all anxiety from your lives. Rather, give thanks to God always and for everything." If I welcome those words into my life, I will experience, deep, abiding, lasting peace in my life. But I can't "dismiss all anxiety from my life and rather give to thanks to God always and for everything." I can't do that without Jesus, but, if I am living in him and he is living in me, I can do it. One more: these words from St. John's Gospel when Jesus says to each of us: "Just as the father loves me, so too, do I love you." Here is a lovely and true story that I think captures who God is and how God treats each of us. It is the story of a woman who is shopping in a pricy boutique gazing at expensive figurines but not daring to touch them because she knew that the policy in such shops was: "if you break it – you've bought it!" So she's walking around the shop on her tippy tippy toes afraid to disturb

anything when a salesman approaches her and says: "Relax, relax." And he points to a sign in the store which says: "If you break it, please tell us – so we can forgive you!" That's who God is! That's God! And that's how God treats each of us, so I can relax! Because, no matter how many mistakes I have made and will make, I can tell God and God will always forgive me. "Just as the father loves me, so too, do I love you." If I can welcome those words into my life, I will trust in God's unconditional love and forgiveness for me, and then I will be able to love my enemies, to pray for them, to bless them, not to curse them, no matter what. "Just as the father loves me, so too, do I love you." If I can welcome those words into my life, I will trust in God's unconditional love and forgiveness for me, and then I will be able to dismiss all anxiety from my life and I will be able to give thanks to God always and for everything, no matter what. Humbly welcome the Word that has been planted in you.