



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 – 15th Sunday of the Year 2019

The Parable of the Good Samaritan is one of the most popular, one of the most well-known stories that Jesus ever told. If tomorrow, someone were to ask you, "What was the Gospel of last Sunday's Mass?" And you said, "Oh, it was the parable of the Good Samaritan." You wouldn't have to say anything more. Everyone seems to know this story. It is so well known that the phrase, "Good Samaritan," is part of our common vocabulary. Persons who do good, are Good Samaritans. Before we reflect upon the parable itself, let's take a look at what led up to Jesus telling this story. He complements the scholar of the law for knowing that you should "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind and you should love your neighbor as yourself." Love of God – love of neighbor. Let's take a look at each of them. We're going to take a look at two traits of people who are

in love with each other. The first trait that we'll look at is that people who are in love with each other, think about the other person often. A way how you and I can think about God often, is to take God with you wherever you go, whatever you are doing, wherever you are. Take God with you: driving, shopping, watching television, eating, at work, at school, no matter where you are, no matter what you're doing, take God with you! I think that's what St. Paul means when he says: "Pray always!" If you are taking God with you always, you are praying always. Maybe we could say to God what Willie Nelson and Elvis sang: "You are always on my mind!" And the second trait that we'll look at of people who are in love with each other, is that no matter how busy they may be, they always find time to be together. The more time that you spend together, when you spend lots of time with someone, then conversation never seems to be lacking. Conversation seems to flow easily when you spend a lot of time with that person. Well even if, God is always God is always on your mind, even if that is true, allow me to suggest that you spend time alone with God, talking to God one on one – just the two of you. That's what people who are in love with each other do, they spend time together and they have conversations together. Now we'll take a look at love of neighbor. The parable of the Good Samaritan shows us love of neighbor. History teaches us that the Jews and the Samaritans were enemies. So, if mercy and compassion can be shown to one's enemy, then no one is enemy – everyone is neighbor. And I think that is the message of the parable of the Good Samaritan. Love your neighbor? Everyone is your neighbor says the Good Samaritan. Here is a true story of a modern-day Good Samaritan.

Some years ago at the parish where I was, the pastor advertised that he was wanting to hire a Director of Faith Formation. He established a search committee who interviewed each of the candidates. It soon became obvious that one candidate stood head and shoulders above the others. But she wasn't hired because one member of the search committee didn't like her, nursed a grudge against her and persuaded the pastor not to hire her, but instead, to hire a friend of this member of the search committee. The rejected candidate was devastated and she knew full well why she wasn't hired. So, what did she do? She immediately volunteered her services to the one who was hired telling that person, "I am here to help you in any way you want." That's loving your neighbor, that's being a Good Samaritan! A Good Samaritan crosses all boundaries. For a Good Samaritan, there are no boundaries. Everyone is neighbor. We'll conclude with a stale, silly story that some priests like me, roll out whenever the Gospel is the parable of the Good Samaritan. The story is about this businessman who everyday on his way to work passes a sad looking woman selling pretzels for one dollar each. Every day the man would give this woman a dollar but he never took a pretzel. This went on for months until one day the woman said, "Sir, I need to talk to you." He quickly responded, "Oh I know, you're going to ask me why I always give you a dollar and never take a pretzel..." She said, "No, no, I was going to tell you that the price is going up to two dollars." Now even though no good deed goes unpunished, you and I have to continue to be Good Samaritans!