



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 – 26th Sunday of the Year 2017

Our Gospel this morning is one of the lesser-known and least-quoted stories of Jesus.

Perhaps a practical application of the parable could be this: "Say what you mean and mean what you say." Or, in the jargon of the '60's: "If you talk the talk, you had better walk the walk..." Jesus' harshest criticism was directed toward hypocrites, phonies. In our society where there seems to be so much deception and deceit, you and I have to be men and women of honesty and integrity. Having said that, we are going to leave this Gospel as one of the lesser-known and least-quoted stories of Jesus and, instead, we'll take a look at the other readings. In our first reading, this morning, God says to us, through the book of the Prophet Exechiel: each of us is responsible for our own actions, decisions. And each of us is responsible for the consequences of our actions, decisions. Forty-one years ago, one of the

characters of Flip Wilson's TV show was named Geraldine. Her signature line was: "The Devil made me do it!" God is saying to us this morning, "No, the devil didn't make you do it, your parents didn't make you do it, your spouse didn't make you do it, your siblings didn't make you do it, your genes didn't make you do it, your boss didn't make you do it, your friends didn't make you do it, YOU Made YOU do it. You are responsible for your actions and decisions, you are responsible for the consequences of your actions and decisions. You are responsible for the way you choose to live your life!" In our second reading this morning, St. Paul tells us to "Humbly regard others as more important than yourself." Every day, a friend of mine spends part of her lunch hour making a visit to church. Every day she sees, outside the church, people asking for money. Every day, she approaches one of them and says, "Yes, I will give you money or buy you lunch, but I'd like to talk with you – get to know you a little better." She sits down with the person, they chat for about ten or fifteen minutes. She asks: "What is your name, at one time did you have an occupation, do you have a family – stuff like that." And she tries very hard to remember what they told her, so the next time she has a conversation with that person, she is able to relate to it. So I asked her, "Why do you do that? Why don't you just give them money? Why do you do that??" She replied, "Because I think that's what Jesus would do. I don't think Jesus would just give money without even hardly looking at the recipient. I think he'd treat everyone as a person, and that's what I try to do. Just because I dress nicely and

have a good job, I'm not more important than everyone else." Let's see if we can illustrate that and I need help, so I asked Christina, our lector to assist me: we're gonna try to illustrate this. Fr. Danny: "Now, Christina what is this?" Christina: "A Dollar." Fr. Danny: "And how much is this worth?" Christina: "A Dollar." (Crunch...) Fr. Danny: "Now, Christina, is this still a dollar?" Christina: "Yes!" Fr. Danny: "Is this still worth a dollar?" Christina: "Yes!" Fr. Danny: "Thank you Christina, I certainly needed your assistance, you can sit down now." So, here's what Christina and I hopefully did. No matter how crumbled or roughed up, a person is; the person is still a person. No matter what that person's appearance might be, that person is still a person. St. Paul tells us to "humbly regard others as more important than ourselves." If we were to regard others as more important than ourselves, I think we would relax more, I think we'd be more at peace, I think we would try less to impress, I think our lives would be simpler, less stressful, and I would be a happier, holier person.

