



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 2018

This evening we're going to reflect upon one sentence from our Gospel, but before we do, let's take at least a peek at this sentence from our Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 85: "kindness and truth shall meet, justice and peace shall kiss." Would that that be the pattern for our life, would that that be the pattern for our country, for our Church, for our world. "Kindness and truth shall meet, justice and peace shall kiss." Wow! Now, let's take a look at our Gospel tonight where Jesus tells his disciples that if any place doesn't welcome them, or doesn't listen to them – they are to shake the dust from their feet and move on. The same applies for you and for me too. Rejection and failure are experienced in everyone's life. But we can't allow them to defeat us. To be rejected, to fail is simply a mark that you belong to the

human race. But you are NOT a failure! You are NOT a reject! As we used to say back in the '60's: "God don't make junk!" And, in the scriptures, this is what God says to you: "You are a gem, a royal diadem, whom I hold in the palm of my hand." That's who you are, that's who you always are. Now, let's see if we can expand from shaking the dust from our feet, to shaking the dust from our heart. Looking around, I can see that you are all too young to remember this, but in the 1970's there was a TV sitcom entitled "All in the Family." In one episode, Edith and Archie go to Edith's High School reunion. While there, Edith encounters an old classmate named Buck. Buck had become extremely obese. Edith and Buck had a delightful conversation reminiscing about old times. Remarkably, Edith did not seem to notice how extremely heavy Buck had become. Later, Edith says to Archie, "Archie, isn't Buck a beautiful person?" Archie responds, "Edith, you and I see the same guy. You see a beautiful person, all I see is a big blimp!" Edith simply says, "Yeah, Archie, ain't that too bad!" And it is too bad, because Archie needs to shake the dust from his heart. Maybe you and need to shake the dust from our hearts. Perhaps, we need to shake the dust from our heart so that we can see other people the way God sees them. Perhaps we need to shake the dust off gossip, or worse, detraction. Perhaps we need to shake the dust from sharing other people's personal business with someone else. Perhaps we need to shake the dust from apologies withheld, affirmations denied, embraces ungiven, love unspoken. Perhaps we need to shake the dust from doing people favors, giving gifts but with a twist, with a hook. Perhaps there are many places in our lives where we need to shake the dust from our heart.

