



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 – 29th Sunday of the Year 2018

This morning, you and I will reflect on the Gospel. It starts with the apostles, James and John, coming to Jesus with a request. Jesus asks them: "What do you wish me to do for you?" Can we pause for a moment now, please so each of us could have Jesus ask YOU that question and then you tell him your answer. So, for the moment, forget James and John, Jesus is asking YOU, "What do you wish me to do for you?" (PAUSE) When Jesus asked James and John, "What do you wish me to do for you," they replied this way, "We want to sit in glory, one on your right side and the other on your left side." Jesus told them, "With me, it's not about sitting in glory, it's about standing with me for what I stand for, for what I am all about – YOU be all about." What is Jesus all about? Well he tells us in the Gospel

today, he says: "I have come, not to BE served, but to serve." And he says, "The greatest among you will be your servants." So that's what it is, not sitting in glory, but standing with him in what is important to him, what he's all about. Well, what does it mean to serve – to be a servant? To serve – to be a servant is to notice the marginalized, the little people.

Here's a true story: a graduating class of nursing students took a quiz in their final days of training. They all did very well on the quiz until they came to the last question. They all left the last question blank. Here was the last question: "What is the name of the woman, whom you see every day, who cleans the school?" None of them knew – they all left it blank, they never even noticed her, she wasn't significant to them. To serve, to be a servant is to see every person as significant. What does it mean to serve, to be a servant? It means to take time. It takes time to be kind, it takes time to be patient, it takes time to say hello, to smile. It takes time to listen. It takes time to be willing to be interrupted, it takes time to change your plans, to be flexible. It takes time to be approachable. To be a servant, to serve takes time. What does it mean to serve, to be a servant? It means to volunteer cheerfully, to do the tasks that no one wants to do, as Mother Teresa once said. Let's get back to James and John. They wanted to sit in glory – one on his right and the other on his left. But for followers of Jesus it is not about position and power. For followers of Jesus it is about standing in solidarity with the world's most famous Foot Washer!