



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 – 23rd Sunday of the Year 2019

This morning we'll take a peek at our Responsorial Psalm and then we'll reflect together on our Second Reading. Our Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 90, "In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge." When we're young, when we're old, and all the years in between, you have been our refuge. On our yay days, and on our nay days, you have been our refuge. In storms and in sunshine, you have been our refuge. The Lord is my refuge, of whom, of what can I be afraid? Ok, now we'll reflect upon our second reading from St. Paul's letter to Philemon. First, we'll summarize the story and then we'll see how it applies to our lives. Philemon was a co-worker with Paul and Timothy. He owned a slave known as Onesimus. Onesimus escaped from Philemon and he met Paul in prison. Paul and Onesimus became

friends and Paul sent Onesimus back to Philemon urging Philemon to treat Onesimus not as a slave but rather as a brother. And so that summarizes the story, right? How does it apply to our lives? Did you notice that St. Paul accepted slavery? He urged Philemon to treat Onesimus kindly, but he accepted that Onesimus was a slave of Philemon. It seems that St. Paul had a blind spot when it came to slavery. Apparently, St. Paul didn't see that it is wrong to own a person as a possession. Apparently, St. Paul didn't see that slavery is evil. So, St. Paul had a blind spot. Well, if the great St. Paul had a blind spot, certainly, it would seem that you and I have our blind spots also! Is there something in my life that is wrong but I do not see it or I do not want to see it? What are some of my possible blind spots? Do I accept people as they are or do I expect them to be as I want them to be? Am I drinking too much? Am I judgmental? Am I generous? Am I passive-aggressive? Am I a person of total integrity? Am I so passionate about some issues that I am blind to other viewpoints. Well, the list of possible blind spots could go on and on couldn't they? But, of course, each of us has to look honestly within ourselves and then make a list of our blind spots. Maybe a blind spot in our society is that we don't see racism as the evil that it is. If a person ignores the fundamental truth that all have a common origin; the one Heavenly Father – so all brothers and sisters, all created equally. If a person ignores that fundamental truth, the consequence is racism. Do I have a blind spot when it comes to racism? St. Paul had a blind spot – he accepted slavery. What are some of my blind spots?