



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 – 26th Sunday of the Year 2019

Mark Twain says: "It ain't those parts of the bible that I can't understand that bother me, but rather, it's those parts that I do understand." So it would seem that he means if you understand it, you should act on it. It seems to me, our scriptures this evening are easy to understand. For example, our first reading, the Prophet Amos tells us, "Woe to you if you live comfortably, but are not made ill by the sufferings of others." I live comfortably, am I made ill by the sufferings of others? Woe to me, if I am not made ill. Our Gospel this evening, it is pretty easy to understand too, isn't it? It is the story of a rich man and a poor man. The rich man dressed splendidly and dined sumptuously. The poor man, lying at his door, was so downtrodden that dogs came to lick his sores. Both men died. When he died,

the rich man went to a place of torment. When he died, the poor man went to a place of comfort. Why do you think that the rich man went to a place of torment when he died? What do you think? Because he was rich? I don't think so, there's nothing wrong with being rich and nowhere in the story does it indicate that that man became rich because he was evil. And it doesn't say anywhere in the story that his wealth caused the other man's poverty. Nor does it indicate that the poor man begged from the rich man and the rich man refused to help. So, why, when he died, did the rich man go to a place of torment? I think that he went to a place of torment not because he was rich, but because he was insensitive. He was insensitive to the sufferings of the poor man. He could see that the poor man was covered with sores yet it was as if he didn't see him at all. He was complacent, not compassionate. And by not comforting the poor man in his sufferings, by not becoming ill when he saw the poor man covered in sores, because of that, he committed the sin of "I Don't Care." A clue as to why the poor man went to a place of comfort when he died, lies in his name. This is the only parable, now you can check with Fr. Jim, make sure I'm right, – he knows everything – but as far as I know, this is the only parable where Jesus names someone. We don't know the name of the Prodigal Son, we don't know the name of the Good Samaritan, but we do know the name of the poor man in today's Gospel. His name is Lazarus. Lazarus is Greek for the Hebrew name Eleazar. Eleazar means, "God Helps Us." So Lazarus trusted that God helps us. No matter what might be going on in my life, do I trust God helps us? Not too long ago I received a phone call from a friend of mine, a man in his

mid-fifties. He told me that he lost his job because the division of the company for which he worked was eliminated. He told me he called to ask for my prayers and then he added, "I don't know what I am going to do but I trust that in some way, God will pull me through." My friend was a Lazarus. Am I a Lazarus? The rich man didn't see, didn't care. The poor man trusted that God sees, that God cares. Which person do I more resemble? "It ain't those parts of the bible that I can't understand that bother me, rather, it's those parts that I do understand." Dear Jesus, please replace my complacency with your compassion. Please give me the grace to become ill when I see the sufferings of others. Please give me the grace to, in some way, comfort them. Amen.