



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 – 32nd Sunday of the Year 2019

Last Sunday, outside of the church, one man said to another, "I told my doctor that I had a terrible pain in my right knee and I asked him what was causing this pain," The doctor smiled and said, "It's your age!" The man replied, "Doc, that can't be because my left knee is the same age as my right and that doesn't hurt!" Dan, what to you think? Dan tells me whether to keep them or toss them...We'll get to that some other day, but let's stay for a little while more with last Sunday. Our Gospel, last Sunday was the story of Zacchaeus, the tax collector. Zacchaeus knew that Jesus was going to be passing by and he very much wanted to see Jesus, but because he was small in stature, he climbed up a sycamore tree so that he would be able to see Jesus passing by. When from the height of the sycamore tree he did see Jesus passing by, his whole life changed. He pledged that he would give half of his possessions to the poor and if he had defrauded anyone in any way, he would pay them back

fourfold. To me, the hero of that story is the sycamore tree. It was because of the sycamore tree that Zacchaeus was able to see Jesus, when he did see Jesus, his whole life changed. God can use anything; God can use anyone to do good. Last Sunday we celebrated the feast of St. Charles Borromeo. He had a severe speech impediment but that did not prevent him from becoming an intellectual giant in our church; it did not prevent him from becoming a saint. Jesus says to each of us: If you remain in me and I remain in you, you will bear much good fruit. You just have to remain in him. Let's take a look at our homily for today. Each Sunday you and I recite the Creed. Let's reflect on the first few words of the creed: I believe in God. Our English word "belief" comes from an old German word which means "to commit to." So, each time you and I say, "I believe in God," we're saying, "I'm committed to God." I'm committed to God's message, to God's ways, to God's will. I say I believe in God, am I committed to God? The Corleone family in the movie The Godfather said that they believed in God, but they weren't committed to God. They recited the Creed word for word, but they certainly weren't committed to God's message, to God's ways, to God's will. To believe in God is much more than just a set of doctrines and dogma; to believe in God is to be committed to God. In our Gospel, today the Sadducees asked Jesus, "In heaven, whose wife will the widow be who married seven husbands?" Jesus replies: "Wrong question, that's not what's important to me." What is important to him is to be committed to him, to his message, to his ways, to his will.