



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 – 13th Sunday of the Year 2019

Back in the old, old days, before you were born, churches were not air conditioned. So, during the summer, sometimes the priest would say: "It's too hot to preach!" So there wasn't a homily. Truth be told, there was some advantage to that on BOTH sides, weren't there! Regardless of that, we plunge right in with a homily. And the homily today will be based on the main theme of our scripture readings today, the theme of discipleship. To be a disciple, means to be a follower. To be a Christian disciple means to be a disciple – a follower of Christ. All Christians, each of us are called to be a disciple; a follower of Christ. It seems to me, that the question we should ask ourselves is: "How can I best be a disciple – a follower of Christ? The way that's best for me, the way that's best for you might be radically different than the way that's best for other people. A few years after we were ordained, a

dear priest friend of mine received permission from our bishop to become a missionary priest in Paraguay. For the next thirty-seven years, he lived with and ministered to the poorest of the poor in Paraguay. That was the way he thought he could best be a disciple – a follower of Jesus. As much as I admired him, I didn't think that something like that would be the best way for me to be a disciple. But I had to BE a disciple, you have to be a disciple. Every Christian has to be a disciple – a follower of Jesus. And, with the grace of God we have to find the best way for each of us to do that. Here's a lovely story: One day Jesus approached two brothers and he asked them both to become his disciples. They both readily agreed. The older brother left his family, his home, left the girl he dreamt of marrying – he left everything behind. He went to a far-away country where he became a lay missionary, preaching the Gospel not only with his words, but also with his life. After many years of doing so, persecution broke out in that country, he was arrested, tortured and eventually killed. Upon his death, he met Jesus who said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant, come and enter heaven!" The other brother stayed at home, stayed with his family, married the girl of his dreams, and became a wonderful husband, wonderful father. He pursued his career, and he was very active in his parish in his community. He was generous to the poor and kind and loving to everyone. Upon his death, when he met Jesus, Jesus said: "Well done, good and faithful servant, come and enter heaven!" Both brothers were called to be a disciple – a follower of Jesus but in different ways. Each of us as Christians, are called to be a disciple a follower of Christ. What is the best way I can do that? What is the best

