



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 – 17th Sunday of the Year 2019

Let's have a look at the dialogue between God and Abraham in our first reading. As the saying goes, it seems that Abraham could sell ice to Eskimos. He got God down from fifty to ten. Of course it is not the story of good salesmanship, it is the story of God's patience, God's compassion. I think it is also a story about how some good people can do a lot of good for other people. God says that, because of the ten good people living there, God will spare the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. That concludes our reading, but it doesn't conclude the story. If you were to continue, to read, in Genesis, this story, you would discover that there weren't even ten good people – there were only four: Lot, his wife and two others. Four good people saved two cities! Arguably, there is more sin and evil in the society in which you and I live now, than there was in Sodom and Gomorrah, then. So,

you and I have to be the good people now! Whether there be fifty or forty-five or thirty or twenty or ten or four, we have to be people of goodness, people of integrity, people of morality, and people of love. If we are, then we won't be lamenting about the society in which we live, we'll be doing something about it. St. Paul teaches, "You overcome evil, by doing good." That's what it says, "You overcome evil, by doing good," so the way to overcome evil is by doing good. So, I bet you that every day, every one of us have some opportunities to do some good. Even though it has been over fifty years since I first saw it, one of my favorite movies remains, To Sir with Love. To Sir with Love is the story how a teacher turned a class of rude roughnecks into respectful young adults. The end of the movie, a student named Lulu sing to the teacher: "You have taught us right from wrong, weak from strong. That's a lot to learn, what can we ever give you in return?" That teacher made a difference and so can we! Make our society better because you are in it. Now, let's take a look at our Gospel this morning. Jesus says: "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and a door will be opened to you. To everyone who asks, receives, the one who seeks, finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." Do you believe that? Be honest with yourself. Do you believe that? Haven't there been times in your life when you did ask, perhaps even pleaded and nothing seemed to have happened?