



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 – 18th Sunday of the Year 2019

We'll start with a story which I think fits right into today's Gospel. About twenty or so years ago, I read a self-help book by Richard Carson called Don't Sweat the Small Stuff.

Reading that book helped me to determine some priorities in my life. One of the priorities I established for myself was that I determined to be a peace-filled, love-filled person. I made that as a priority for my life. Recently, while driving here to Church, the car in front of me broke every rule of driving courtesy. I caused me to miss a light. Well, this peace-filled, love-filled person became annoyed and angry. Do you see what I mean? I lost track of my priority. The light that I missed is less than sixty seconds long, I lost my priority because I lost sixty seconds! I surrendered my serenity for a missed traffic light. Lesson learned, I hope, and maybe a lesson for you as well: know your priorities, keep your priorities, don't

sweat the small stuff. I think that's what Jesus is teaching us in our Gospel today. It starts with the sentence: "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me!" And Jesus tells a story about the foolish farmer which seems to have nothing to do with the question that he was asked. And yet, it might have EVERYTHING to do with that question. Maybe Jesus was telling the person who asked the question: "You have the wrong priority!" Maybe he was telling his inquisitor, "What if demanding your share of the inheritance means losing your relationship with your brother?" Nothing is worth that! Nothing is worth severing a relationship. Maybe Jesus was telling his inquisitor, "Check your priorities!" Maybe I need to check my priorities as well. I need to know my priorities, I need to know what's really important in life. Why do you think that Jesus called the farmer, foolish? Well, it could be that the farmer is foolish because he had the wrong priority. The farmer's priority was himself – me! In four verses, he uses the words "I and my" ten times. "Eat, drink, be merry, build bigger barns!" Self-absorption, self-centeredness, it's all about me. Well, we'll each of us have to deal with that and our own priorities as we pray to get enlightened. But I am going to conclude with a true story. Recently, a couple told me that they were discussing that if they won the lottery, what would they do with the money that they won? They decided that they would give half of it to their parish, they would divide the other half among their family, friends and legitimate charities. They explained to me, "We already have all that we need." The world does not need bigger barns, the world needs bigger HEARTS.