



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 – 30th Sunday of the Year 2018

So, in our Gospel story this morning we meet Bartimeaus, who is blind. Talking about being blind, here is a silly story that I will share with you. One day, Stevie Wonder challenged Tiger Woods to a game of golf. Tiger knew that Stevie Wonder was blind so he asked, "How can you possibly play golf?" Stevie explained, "Like many blind people, I have an advanced sense of hearing, so when my caddie calls from the green, with my sharp sense of hearing, I can take aim." And, then he told Tiger, "I'm very good at golf! In fact, do you want to play a game together for, say \$100,000?" Tiger accepted, and then asked Stevie, "Well then, okay, when do you want to play?" Stevie smiled and said, "Any NIGHT you choose!" We had better get right back into the homily! In our Gospel story last Sunday, Jesus asked James

and John, "What do you want me to do for you?" And in our Gospel story this morning, Jesus asks Bartimaeus the same question, "What do you want me to do for you?" If we could pause for a moment, please and instead of Jesus asking Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?" Allow Jesus to ask YOU "What do you want me to do for you?" Pause and allow us to tell Jesus the answer to this question. (PAUSE). Bartimaeus gave a great answer to that question, he answered, "Lord, I want to see!" Thank God, even though we may not be physically blind, as was Bartimaeus, let's make his answer OUR answer – "Lord, I want to see." Some years ago I presided at a funeral Mass of a woman who had eight children and who had been involved in a messy divorce. Some of her eight children had sided with and stayed with her and some of her eight children had sided and stayed with her husband. At her funeral Mass, only two of her eight children came, and her husband did not come. Now, I am not taking sides, here. I have no idea what caused her divorce nor who might have been at fault. But I do know this about her eight children: all eight of them should have been at her funeral, this is your mother – you should be there. And I do know this about her husband: this is the mother of your eight children, you should have been at her funeral. It might be that Jesus is saying to those who did not come: "blind fools." "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see. I want to see how you can live more fully within me." When I refuse forgiveness, Lord I want to see. When I allow pettiness and pride to dominate, Lord I want to see. When I allow anxieties and fears to cloud my image of you, Lord I want to see. When I am not honest with myself nor with others, Lord I want to see.

When I'd rather be right than kind, Lord I want to see. When I take your many blessings for granted, Lord I want to see. You have given me so much and yet, at times I can be so sad, so negative, Lord I want to see. Lord I would like to see what is really important in life, Lord I want to see you in everyone, the poor, the sick, the sad, the lonely, the aged, the obnoxious, the people who think that they are nobodies, the challenged, the criminals – everyone, Lord I want to see! And Lord, the question that you asked Bartimaeus and that you asked each of us today – our response: Lord I want to see. I want to see you all my days and nights until I see you face to face in heaven. Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now I'm found – was blind, but now I see!