

Selected Friday Sermons Compiled by Sh. Muhammad Jumu'an:

SPEECH NO.3

TOPIC: GOOD CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION:

All praise is due to Allah –The Almighty, The All Gracious. We praise Him, we seek His Guidance and ask for His Forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of our own souls and bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, none can lead him astray and whoever Allah leaves astray, no one can guide him to the straight path besides Allah. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone without any associates and I bear witness that Muhammad is the slave and messenger of Allah. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him and all his family members and companions. Amen.

O you who have believed! Fear Allah as he should be feared and hold firmly to Islam which is the most trust worthy handhold. O you who believe! Allah –The Almighty has prescribed for His slaves and servants different kinds of worship and commanded us and the nations that came before us to worship Him using these forms of worship as a means to get closer to Him. One of these types of worship is having good moral conduct. This type of worship weighs heavily in the scales of the good deeds on the Day of Judgement. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) said: “There is nothing heavier in the scales of good deeds for the believer on the Day of Judgement than good moral conduct.” This tradition was related by Imam At-Tirmidhi.

Having good moral conduct raises a person’s rank and status and increases their good deeds. The Prophet (Peace be upon him) said: “The believer who has good moral conduct will attain the rank or status of a person who fasts in the daytime and prays in the night time on a regular basis.” This tradition was related by Imam Abu Dawood. O believers! Having good moral conduct is what makes most people enter the paradise. The Prophet (Peace be upon him) was once asked: “what makes most people to enter the Paradise? He (Peace be upon him) replied: “The fear of Allah and having good moral conduct.” This tradition was related by Imam At-Tirmidhi.

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) also said: “The best of you are those who are best in their conduct.” Related by Imam Al-Bukhari. Having good conduct leads to the perfection of a believer’s faith. The Prophet (Peace Be Upon him) said: “The most complete in faith among the believers are those who have the best conduct.” Related by Imam Ahmad ibn Hanbal.

The highest ranks and lofty stations in Heaven are also reserved for those who have good conduct. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) said: “I am the leader in a house in the highest Paradise for those who have good moral conduct.” Related by Abu Dawood.

A famous Muslim scholar-Ibn Al Qayyim said that “Religion is good conduct and whoever surpasses you in good conduct has surpassed you in the religion.”

The Prophet (Peace be upon him) used to pray constantly to Allah –The Almighty, to grant him good manners and good conduct. He used to say in his prayers: “O Allah! Guide me to the best manners no one guides to them except You and remove from me the worst manners, no one removes them from me except You.” Related by Imam Muslim. The famous Muslim scholar Ibn Rajab said: “Piety (Taqwa) cannot be completely attained unless with good conduct or good manners.”

The persons who will be closest to the prophet Muhammad in physical proximity in the hereafter will be those who have the best conduct or best manners. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) said: “Indeed those who are most beloved to me and closest to me in proximity in the hereafter are those that have the best character or best conduct.” Related by Imam At-Tirmidhi.

The Prophet used to advise his companions to have good manners and conduct. He (Peace be upon him) said to Muadh ibn Jabal (May Allah be pleased with him):

“Fear Allah wherever you may be, follow the evil deed with a good deed and it will erase it and have good manners or conduct when dealing with people.”

Related by Imam At-Tirmidhi.

Good manners or conduct can also save a person from the punishment of the Hell-Fire. The Prophet (Peace be upon him) said: “Fear Allah even by donating in charity half piece of a date fruit and if you cannot find that then at least by speaking good words to someone.” Agreed upon.

The prophet Muhammad was sent by Allah –The Almighty to perfect the morals. He (Peace be upon him) used to say: “I have been sent only to perfect the good morals.” Related by Imam Ahmed.

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) was a perfect example of a person with excellent morals and conduct. He had the most beautiful characteristics and manners. Prophet Noah (Peace be upon him) called his people to worship Allah alone for 950 years and was patient with them. Prophet Abraham (Peace be upon him) was very generous and he once received 2 guests and rushed to prepare a roasted calf for them. Prophet Ishmael (Peace be upon him) was known for his truthfulness and the scrupulous keeping of his promises. Prophet Joseph (Peace be upon him) told his brothers who caused him to suffer separation from his loving Father Prophet Jacob (Peace be upon him) and was sold into slavery in Egypt and then became imprisoned for many years, **“No blame upon you today.”** (Surah Yusuf verse no. 92).

Prophet Moses (Peace be upon him) was very shy and no one could see his skin. Allah-The Most Glorious-praised our beloved prophet Muhammad as having excellent character and conduct. In Surah Al Qalam verse no.4, Allah –The Almighty says: “And Indeed you are of great moral character.”

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) lived all his life exemplifying the best morals and principles of Islam and staying away from all forms of bad behaviour. One man said to the Prophet (Peace be upon him): “O you the best of the creation! The prophet humbly replied: **“That is Ibrahim- The friend of God”.** Related by Imam Muslim.

The Prophet (Peace be upon him) was the most generous person. He never sent away anyone who asked him for help. He was always smiling in the face of others and he was the most scrupulous person in fulfilling his promises. Whenever any of his companions became sick, he would visit them. If he missed any of his companions, he would ask about them. He had the most merciful heart amongst the people and would shorten his prayers in congregation if he heard the crying of the babies or the children so as not to make it difficult for the child’s mother. He was the most lenient and accommodating person. He would assist his wives in the house chores whenever he entered his home.

The Prophet Muhammad was the most patient of the people. He went out of his house one day with a stone tied to his stomach due to extreme hunger but he didn't complain. He was also the most forgiving of the people. His enemies fought against him and killed and tortured many of his companions. They caused his face to bleed profusely when he was hurt during the battle of Uhud by breaking his incisor tooth and due to severe blows by Ibn Qamiya on his helmet whose pins pierced his face. The enemies of the Prophet had forced him and his companions to emigrate from Makkah and confiscated their properties and wealth. They even tried to assassinate the prophet (Peace be upon him). In spite of all this, when the Prophet became victorious after the conquest of Makkah, he told the people of Makkah who had been his enemies for many years, **"Go for you are free."**

The Prophet (Peace be upon him) was the most forbearing of the people. The people of Al-Taif mistreated him and even stoned him until his legs were bleeding. Allah –The Almighty sent the Angel of the mountains to the Prophet so that he can command the angel with whatever he wants. The Angel of the Mountains asked the Prophet Muhammad permission to destroy the people of Al-Taif by crushing them between the two mountains. The Prophet (Peace be upon him) refused to do so or avenge himself.

Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) told Aisha bint Assiddiq –The mother of the believers- "Be gentle and avoid harshness and vulgarity." Agreed upon. The Prophet (Peace be upon him) never struck a woman or child or a servant with his bare hands. The companions of the prophet followed his example based on these principles of belief in Allah and the need to have a high moral character. They were also well behaved in the companionship of the Prophet Muhammad. "If he commands them, they rush to fulfil his command; when the prophet speaks, they all lower their voices and they never used to stare at his face out of great respect and awe for him." Related by Imam Al-Bukhari.

The great companion of the Prophet Amru ibn Al As said: "There was no one who was more beloved to me than the Prophet (Peace be upon Him) and there was no one who was more respectable to me than him but I never could fully stare at his face out of great admiration and awe I had for him. And If someone had asked me to describe him or his physical appearance, I would not be able to describe him as

I didn't use to stare at him nor gaze long enough at his face to satisfy my curiosity. Related by Imam Al-Bukhari. The companions of the Prophet were great examples in showing respect for one another. The commander of the believers Umar ibn Al-Khattab (May Allah be pleased with him) said: "Abu-Bakr is more lenient than me and more worthy of respect. And 'Uthman because of his shyness, the Angels are shy of him.

May Allah-The Almighty continue to bless us with the teachings of the Holy Qurán and enlighten us with its wonderful verses, knowledge, wisdom and beautiful exhortations. I say this and seek Allah's Forgiveness for all of us and for all the Muslims from our sins so ask for His Forgiveness for He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

Part 2 of the speech:

All praise is due to Allah for His generosity and All thanks is due to Allah for His guidance and countless blessings. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him and all his family members and all his companions.

O Muslims! No one ennoble his soul better than by having Faith in Allah and having good moral conduct. The main source of all good conduct and good morals is pure monotheism. Whoever lacks monotheism, will not benefit from the other noble attributes or good morals. Aisha –The mother of the believers- asked the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him): "Ibn Jadaan, who used to be one of the leaders of the Quraysh tribe in the days of ignorance, used to keep ties of kinship and feed the poor. Will these good attributes help him on the day of Judgement? The Prophet replied: "No it will not help him as he never once said: O my Lord forgive me my sins on the day of Judgement." Related by Imam Muslim.

If the Muslims adorn themselves with the morals and teachings of the Holy Qurán, the society will be reformed and the people will be callers to the straight path of Allah by setting up examples of good conduct and good deeds.

Allah – The All Glorious says in the Qur'an: "Take what is given freely, enjoin what is good and turn away from the ignorant." (Qurán: Chapter 7 verse 199).

Allah –The Most Glorious has commanded you to send salutations of peace and blessings upon His prophet as mentioned in the Holy Qurán:

“Allah and His Angels send salutations of peace on the prophet. O you who believe send salutations of peace and blessings on the prophet”

O Allah! Exalt the mention of Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as you exalted the mention of Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim. You are the Praised and Most Glorious. O Allah! Bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as you have blessed Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim. You are Praised and Most Glorious.

O Allah! Guide our Leader to follow your guidance and make his striving directed towards fulfilling what pleases You. O Allah! Guide all Muslim leaders to apply the teachings of the Holy Qurán and the Islamic law (Sharia) in all spheres of the society. Our Lord give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good and protect us from the punishment of the Hell-Fire. Ameen.

