

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

SPEECH NO.4

TOPIC: FORBEARANCE

INTRODUCTION:

All praise is due to Allah –The Almighty, The All Gracious who has decreed happiness and joy for His obedient servants. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone without any associates, the Lord of all the nations 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 Muslims! I advise you and myself to fear Allah as this leads to happiness and success. O You who believe! Fear Allah and speak straight to the point. Allah will put your affairs right and forgive you your sins. And whoever obeys Allah and His messenger has indeed attained the greatest success. O slaves of Allah! The elevation of the status of a person is due to his faith and good conduct. His status increases with Allah due to the combination of both these attributes. Forbearance is the foundation of good conduct and manners. It is also a sign of a person's sound intellect and maturity. Whoever possesses this attribute of forbearance is considered a great person and given a lofty status among the people besides having other praiseworthy consequences.

The people who mostly possess this wonderful quality or attribute of forbearance are the Messengers and Prophets of Allah. (May the Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon them all). Allah-The All Glorious Praised Prophet Abraham (Peace be upon him) when He said in the Holy Qur'an: "Indeed Abraham was compassionate and forbearing." (Qurán: Chapter 9 verse 114).

Prophet Noah (Peace be upon Him) called his people to the worship of one God-Allah alone. The peoples' reaction to his message was very rude and insulting. They placed their fingers inside their ear lobes to show their total rejection of his message and were stubborn and arrogant. Yet he was forbearing with them and continued to call them to Islam for 950 years.

Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) was stoned badly by the people of Al-Taif until he bled. He used to wipe the blood off his face and say; "O my Lord! Forgive my people because they don't know". One day a Bedouin Arab saw the prophet and came and grabbed his clothes tightly to the extent that the coarse collar of his shirt left a mark on his neck. This Bedouin tribesman then said to the Prophet (Peace be upon him): "O Muhammad! Give me from the wealth of Allah that is with you. The Prophet turned to him while laughing and ordered something to be given to him. Also the servant of the prophet Anas Ibn Malik (May Allah be pleased with him) said: "I served the prophet for 10 years. Never did he once say to me uff."

The prophet (Peace be upon him) used to praise any of his companions who had this great attribute of forbearance. He said to Al Ashaj Abd Qais; You have two attributes which Allah loves; forbearance and pondering carefully before deciding what to do. The Prophet (Peace be upon him) said: The strongest man is not the invincible wrestler but the one who controls his anger when provoked".

O slaves of Allah! To forbear with a foolish person or an ignorant person is better than to get into arguments or quarrels with them. A person said to Dhirar ibn Alqa'qa": I swear by Allah! if you were to insult me once, I would insult you back 10 times. Dhirar replied to him: "If you were to insult me 10 times, you will not hear from me even one insult."

Refraining from Anger is the prophet's advice to all Muslims. A man came to the Prophet and asked him for advice. He (Peace be upon Him) told him: "Don't get angry". He (the questioner) kept asking again and again for advice and each time the Prophet gave him the same answer: "Don't get angry."

The Prophet used to supplicate; "O Allah! I ask you to speak the truth whether in the state of anger or state of satisfaction."

O Slaves of Allah! The Prophet commands us to seek refuge in Allah from the Satan-The Accursed one- at the time of anger as he is the main cause of anger, aggression and creating divisions between Muslims.

The Prophet (Peace be upon him) saw a man whose face had turned red due to anger. He remarked: "I know a word if he said it his anger will go away from him. If he said: I seek refuge in Allah from the accursed Satan."

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) forbade the angry person from talking. He said: "If any one of you gets angry let him remain silent. If he has water near him then let him perform ablution." The Prophet also said: "The anger is from Satan. And Satan was created from the Fire. Indeed, Fire is extinguished by water. So if anyone of you becomes angry let them perform ablution."

O Muslims! The true honour and dignity for the Muslim and loftiness of purpose is by refraining from insulting others or becoming angry unless this anger is for the sake of Allah when His limits are crossed. Also ignoring or overlooking the foolish people's insinuations and provocations to anger will protect your honour, dignity and religion.

Whoever becomes angry, let him remember Allah's forbearance upon him and Allah's power over him which is greater than your power over his creation. The believer O slaves of Allah feels or experiences and rejoices in the great reward of Allah in pardoning and forgiving others who have wronged us. Allah-The Most Gracious and Most Merciful says in the holy Qur'an: "Take what they give freely, command what is good and turn away from the ignorant".

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! whoever plants the seed of forbearance will reap the reward of peace. Forbearance is only exposed and known at the time of anger. The best of the people are those who are slow to become angry and quick to eliminate it. The worst of the people are those who are quick to get angry but very slow in overcoming it.

It is a sign of great intellect and good conduct when one becomes angry he doesn't fall into falsehood and when the person is happy or satisfied he doesn't stray away from the path of truth and righteousness. Therefore, be kind, easy and lenient to your close relatives and to other people so that you may attain Allah's good pleasure who is the Most Praiseworthy.

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.