

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

SPEECH NO.7

TOPIC: FULFILLING OTHER PEOPLES' NEEDS

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 Believe! Allah –The Almighty has favoured some people over others by His Infinite Wisdom and in order to test them. Allah –The Most Glorious says: “And it is He who has made you successors upon the Earth and has raised some of you above others in degrees (of rank) that He may try you through what He has given you. Indeed, your Lord is swift in penalty; but Indeed, He is Forgiving and Merciful. (Holy Qurán: Chapter 6 verse 165).

In Surah Al-Zukhruf (Chapter 43 verse 32): Allah –The Almighty says: “Do they distribute the mercy of your Lord? It is We who have apportioned among them their livelihood in the life of this world and have raised some above others in degrees (of rank) that they may make use of one another for service. But the mercy of your Lord is better than whatever they accumulate.”

In the complaint of the poor, it is a test for the wealthy, and in the humiliation of the weak is a test for the strong or mighty and in the pain and suffering of the sick is wisdom for the healthy. Due to these natural laws in the Universe, Allah-The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful, made Sharia laws to encourage the people to cooperate and help one another in relieving their difficulties or problems or intercede on their behalf for a good cause if one has the authority. All these steps lead to strong bonds of love and fellowship and true brotherhood.

Dear Believers! Helping the people and exerting efforts to remove their distress or problems is among the noble characteristics of the prophets and messengers of Allah. A good example is Prophet Joseph (Yusuf) (Peace be upon Him) who in spite of what his brothers had done to him, yet he filled their sacks with wheat flour and didn't deprive them of anything. Another example is Prophet Moses (Musa) (Peace be upon him) when he reached the water well of Midian, he saw a lot of people there watering their goats and sheep but noticed two young ladies standing far away from the crowd with their goats and sheep as they were shy and didn't want to mingle with the crowd and the men. Musa (pbuh) removed the huge stone cover from the mouth of the well and gave water to their animals.

The mother of the believers Khadija Bint Khuwailid and the first wife of the Prophet (May Allah be pleased with her) said the following about the character of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him): "You unite the uterine relations; you bear the burden of the weak; you help the poor and the needy, you entertain the guests and endure hardships in the path of truthfulness." (Related by Imam Al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim).

The Master of Creation –Our Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) if anyone asked him for something, he never let them down. Jabir son of Abdullah (May Allah be pleased with him) said: "The Messenger of Allah was never asked for anything and said 'no'." (Related by Imam Al-Bukhari and Muslim). On the contrary, he (The Prophet) used to say: "The most beloved people to Allah are those who are most helpful and beneficial to others." (Related by Imam At-Tabarani). He (Prophet Muhammad) also used to say: "That I accompany my Muslim brother to assist him or solve his problem is more beloved to me than to make seclusion in my mosque in Madinah for one month." (Related by At-Tabarani). In another narration by Imam Al Bayhaqi, the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Whoever goes with his Muslim brother in need of his help until he fulfils it, Allah will make his feet firm on the day when people's feet will slip."

The noble companions of the prophet and the righteous Muslims who came after them followed this noble example of the Prophet in their daily lives and it became a solid foundation and methodology of their lives. For Example: The Caliph Umar

used to pay extra attention to the affairs and needs of the widows. He used to supply them with drinking water in the night time.

Dear Believers! Serving the people and providing for the needs of the weak and oppressed is a sign of good upbringing, purity of origin and ancestry and purity of the heart. Allah –The Exalted and the Almighty is merciful to those who show mercy to His creatures. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: “Allah is merciful to those who show mercy to His creatures. Show mercy to those on earth and the one in the heavens will show mercy to you.” (Related by Imam Ahmed ibn Hanbal).

The Messenger of Allah also said: “Whoever removes an affliction or distress for his Muslim brother in this world, Allah will remove one of his afflictions on the day of Judgement.” (Related by Imam Muslim).

The Messenger of Allah also said: “Allah’s support is with the person who seeks to help his Muslim brother.” (Related by Imam Muslim).

In serving the people, Allah’s blessings will be in our time and work and our difficulties will be eased. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: “Whoever eases a difficult situation for his Muslim brother, Allah will ease his difficulties in this world and the hereafter.” (Related by Imam Muslim).

The noble Muslim leaders and scholars in the past until the present were always concerned with fulfilling other peoples’ needs. Imam Ibn Qayyim Al-Jawzi says: “The Shaikh of Islam (Implying Shaikh Ibn Taimiyya) used to strive with great striving to fulfil other peoples’ needs.

Charity averts or protects one from an evil death or terrible disasters or afflictions. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: “Charitable deeds avert from an evil death and from terrible disasters or afflictions in this life. The people of charity in this world are the people of charity in the hereafter.” (Related by Imam At-Tabarani).

Dear Believers! Utilizing ones’ authority to help the weak, oppressed and handicapped people brings great benefit in this world and the next. If they pray sincerely for you and Allah –The Almighty accepts their prayers for you, it will bring you great happiness and success in all your affairs. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: “Maybe a dishevelled person, covered in dust, usually turned

away from the front door when he knocks asking for help, if he swore by Allah, his prayer will be answered.” (Related by Imam Muslim).

This world is full of tribulations and life is a test. The strong person today might become weak later on and the rich person today might become penniless or poor tomorrow and vice versa. The person who is alive today might die tomorrow. The wisest person is the one who utilizes his authority or power to serve the religion of Islam and benefit the Muslims.

Dear Believers! It is imperative for the person who is asking for something or interceding for someone to select the best words or phrases which will have a great impact on the person addressed. However, whoever makes intercession for his Muslim brother or sister and it becomes rejected, it won't harm him. It is related that the Prophet (peace be upon him) once interceded on behalf of one Muslim person to his wife and said to her: “If you returned back to your husband because he is the father of your children.” She asked the prophet: “O messenger of Allah! Are you ordering me to do so? He (peace be upon him) said: No. I am just an intercessor. She then replied: I have no need for him.” (Related by Imam Al-Bukhari and Muslim).

If the need is fulfilled, then it is necessary to praise the intercessor and the one who accepted the intercession because the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: “He does not thank Allah, he who does not thank the people”. (Related by Imam Ahmad.)

Also the prophet (peace be upon him) said: “Whoever performs a good charitable deed to you, reward them. If you can't reward them, then make supplications for them until you feel that you have fulfilled your obligation of rewarding them. (Related by Abu Dawood).

So fear Allah dear believers and help your Muslim brothers and sisters and enjoin upon each other to be just and truthful. Cooperate together on the basis of righteousness and fear of Allah. Know that nothing will remain for a human being after their death except their deeds. An individual remains alive (in the people's memories) based on their characteristics.

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.

Dear Muslims! O Believers!

Among the things that ruin our good deeds of charity is to constantly remind the beneficiary of your generosity to them and especially in front of other people. This reminding others of the favours that you have done for them destroys the rewards of the charity. There is no benefit for the donor if he keeps reminding others of his favours towards them. The good deed of charity is not accepted by Allah except with three conditions namely;

- ❖ It should be carried out quickly and without delay.
- ❖ It should be minimized in your mind or your eyes and not exaggerated.
- ❖ It should be concealed or hidden from other people unless done to set an example for others or encourage others to do the same.

If the charity is given quickly, it will make the receiver happy and if it is minimized, the beneficiary will consider it great in their eyes and if it is concealed all chances of showing off are eliminated and becomes a sincere act for the sake of Allah- The Almighty and that leads to its acceptance by Allah.

There is a serious warning against intercession for what is unlawful or prohibited. It is not permitted to intercede for a person to take other people's rights or take a position of responsibility when others are more qualified than him for the job. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) also warned us against interceding to prevent the punishment of crimes(Hudud) from being carried out on the person as it is a grave sin to do so.

Islam is a just religion and commands Muslims to do good and prohibits them from corruption and intercession to prevent the laws of Allah from being implemented in the society. This is among the gravest of sins.

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.