

TOPIC 4: MOTIVATIONS AND REWARDS FOR DAWAH

Giving dawah develops empathy – a prophetic trait.

Having empathy does not mean agreeing with people. Rather, it means having the ability to enter into another's personality and imaginatively experiencing his or her feelings. As a Muslim, we must be empathic. If we do not give dawah, we lack this virtuous trait.

Those who deny Allah and reject Him have chosen the path to the fire. Allah does not want people to go to hell. However, it is we who choose to deny His mercy and guidance. Thus, placing ourselves on the path of spiritual destruction. Think about the reality of hell. If you had empathy, you would not want anyone to go there. "Surely! Those who disbelieved in Our Ayat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) we shall burn them in Fire. As often as their skins are roasted through, we shall change them for other skins that they may taste the punishment. Truly, Allah is ever Most Powerful, All Wise." (4:56).

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Among the inmates of Hell will be a person who had led a very luxurious life in this world will be brought on the Day of Resurrection and dipped in the Hellfire, he will then be asked: 'O son of Adam! Did you ever experience any comfort? Did you (ever) happen to have any luxury?' He will reply: 'I swear by Allah, no my Lord.' Then, another person, who had experienced extreme misery in the life of this world, will be dipped in Paradise. He will then be asked: 'O son of Adam! Did you ever experience any misery? Did you ever encounter difficulty?' He will reply: 'I swear by Allah, no my Lord, I neither experienced misery nor passed through hardship.'" (Muslim)

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) had so much empathy for others and he did not want to see people going to Hellfire! He said, “The likeness of me and you is that of a man who lit a fire and grasshoppers and moths started falling into it, and he tried to push them away. I am seizing your waistbands and trying to pull you away from the Fire but you are trying to get away from me.” (Muslim). In fact, he had so much empathy, that his emotional response to people rejecting the message almost killed him with grief! Allah says: “It may be that you are going to kill yourself with grief, that they do not become believers.” (26:3)

[illegible]

Those who give dawah are the best of people in speech.

As mentioned earlier, Allah describes those who give dawah as being the best in speech: “And who is better in speech than one who invites to Allah and does righteousness and says: ‘I am one of the Muslims.’” (41:33)

The rewards are immense

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: “Whoever guides [another] to a good deed will get a reward similar to the one who performs it.” (Muslim). The Prophet (peace be upon him) also said: “By Allah, if Allah were to guide one man through you it would be better for you than the best type of camels.” (Bukhari and Muslim)

REFLECTION

Read the following verses of the Quran. What lessons can you extract:

Give them an example ‘O Prophet’ of the residents of a town, when the messengers came to them. We sent them two messengers, but they rejected both. So We reinforced ‘the two’ with a third, and they declared, “We have indeed been sent to you ‘as messengers’.” The people replied, “You are only humans like us, and the Most Compassionate has not revealed anything. You are simply lying!” The messengers responded, “Our Lord knows that we have truly been sent to you. And our duty is only to deliver ‘the message’ clearly.” They said, “Indeed, we consider you a bad omen. If you do not desist, we will surely stone you, and there will surely touch you, from us, a painful punishment.” The messengers said, “Your bad omen lies within yourselves. Are you saying this because you are reminded ‘of the truth’? In fact, you are a transgressing people.”

And there came from the farthest end of the city a man, running. He said, "O my people, follow the messengers. Follow those who ask no reward of you, and are 'rightly' guided. And why should I not worship the One Who has originated me, and to Whom you will be returned. Should I take other than Him [false] deities [while], if the Most Merciful intends for me some adversity, their intercession will not avail me at all, nor can they save me? Indeed, I would then be clearly astray. I do believe in your Lord, so listen to me." "But they killed him, then" he was told "by the angels", "Enter Paradise!" He said, "If only my people knew of how my Lord has forgiven me, and made me one of the honourable." (36:13-27)

[illegible]

What was his reward? To become a person of Paradise! Honoured by Allah for being someone who **supported** the message and the messengers! That was his reward for simply supporting the dawah when there were not one, not two, but three messengers already doing the job! What about us? What would our reward be if we give dawah at a time when there are no messengers present?

It is also interesting that the man's name is not mentioned, nor how they killed him – we are just told that he supported the dawah to his reward, getting us to focus on his sincere action and its reward.

Giving dawah is self-defining

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: *"You will not truly believe until you love for your brother (akhikhi) what you love for yourself."* (Bukhari). An-Nawawi said *"This is interpreted as brotherhood in general, such that it includes the disbeliever and the Muslim. So, he should love for his brother, the disbeliever, what he loves for himself which is his entering Islam, just as he should love for his brother Muslim that he remains in Islam. For this reason, it is recommended to supplicate for the disbeliever to be guided. The meaning of love here is an intention for good and benefit, and this meaning is religious love, not human love."* (Sharh al-Arba'yn 13). Therefore, if we want to elevate our imaan, we have to give the thing that we love to other people. If we love Allah and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) the most, then we should give this love to humanity. In this light, giving dawah is spreading love!

A stronger connection with the Quran

REFLECTION

If you were to ask each other, "what was the salah like of Prophet Ayub?", could you answer it? What about the salah of Prophet Hud or Saleh? Could you tell each other about the zakah of Prophet Shuayb? The hajj of Musa? The fasting of Ilyas?

For the majority of the Prophets, Allah chose not to divulge this information to us. But, what about their dawah? Has Allah told us about their dawah? Does this show a significance?

Around one third of the Qur'an is the stories of the Prophets. The stories of the Prophets are based on one theme: dawah. Allah says: *"And We did not send any Messenger before you (O Muhammad) but We revealed to him (saying): 'none has the right to be worshipped but I, so worship Me.'" (21:25) and "[We sent] messengers as bringers of good tidings and warner's so that mankind will have no argument against Allah after the messengers. And ever is Allah Exalted in Might and Wise."* (4:165)

If we read through the Quran, we can find this in many places. For example:

- **Nuh (peace be upon him):** "We had certainly sent Noah to his people, and he said, "O my people, worship Allah ; you have no deity other than Him."" (7:59)
- **Hud (peace be upon him):** "And to 'Aad We sent Hud, saying, 'O my people worship Allah, making all of your worship purely for Him, since there is none besides Him having the right to be worshipped by you.'" (7:65)
- **Saleh (peace be upon him):** "And to Thamud (people, We sent) their brother Saleh. He said: "O my people! Worship Allah! You have no other Ilah (God) but Him."" (7:73)
- **Shuayb (peace be upon him):** "And to [the people of] Madyan [We sent] their brother Shu'ayb. He said, "O my people, worship Allah ; you have no deity other than Him."" (7:85)
- **Ilyas (peace be upon him):** "And verily, Ilyas was one of the Messengers. When he said to his people: 'Will you not fear Allah? Will you call upon Ba'l (an idol) and forsake the Best of creators, Allah, your Lord and the Lord of your forefathers?'" (37:123)
- **Musa (peace be upon him):** "Then We sent after them Moses with Our signs to Pharaoh and his establishment, but they were unjust toward them. So see how was the end of the corrupters. And Moses said, 'O Pharaoh, I am a messenger from the Lord of the worlds'" (7:103-104)
- **Isa (peace be upon him):** [Jesus said], "And indeed, Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him. That is a straight path." (19:36)
- **Muhammad (peace be upon him):** "Say, (Muhammad), this is my way, I call to Allah upon certain knowledge - I, and those who follow me." 12:108

These verses clearly show the importance of da'wah and that, by giving da'wah, a person takes up the mantle of the previous Prophets and Messengers! Therefore, if you are not walking the path of dawah, how are you going to truly connect and internalise the stories of the Prophets? Can someone taste a chocolate cake just by reading what it tastes like?

Give dawah makes you a "companion"

The Prophet's number one mission was to give dawah - this was his constant sunnah. Emulating this constant sunnah makes you a companion to his prophetic mission. At the beginning of this course, it was mentioned that this course is to give you the necessary information, advice and guidance on how to do the best job in the world: the job of the Prophets and messengers.

We are walking in the footsteps of the Prophet (peace be upon him)! There is no other Prophet or messenger to come, nor are there any of his companions left to continue the call. The responsibility must fall on the shoulders of someone – our shoulders. We are his spokesperson. Imagine you were the spokesperson for Microsoft, Apple or Google. You'd be so excited and tell everyone! Well, we are the spokesperson for the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). We're here to tell everyone about what HE had to say! How much more excited should we be?
