

OBEDIENCE TO THE PROPHET (PEACE AND BLESSINGS OF ALLAH BE UPON HIM)

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Friday Sermon August 17th, 2012

NOTE: Al Islam Team takes full responsibility for any errors or miscommunication in this Synopsis of the Friday Sermon

SUMMARY

In order to become the recipient of Divine grace, favours and blessings, God has taught to become His *Abd* (servant), those who follow His commandments

Although there are numerous Quranic commandments to help one attain the objective of becoming an *Abd*,

But human nature is such that it is more influenced by practical example

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) presented a perfect and blessed model of how to follow all the Quranic commandments

Without following his blessed model it is pointless to hope for the Hereafter

May God enable us to understand this reality and may this Ramadan depart having shown us its real insight and may we follow the blessed model

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih recited the following verses at the start of Friday sermon today:

An *Abd* (servant) follows Allah's commandment

The Holy Prophet (pbuh), the Excellent model

No hope for the Hereafter, without following the blessed model

The sayings of the Promised Messiah^{as}

Some examples from the life of the Holy Prophet (pbuh)

'Verily you have in the Prophet of Allah an excellent model, for him who fears Allah and the Last Day and who remembers Allah much.' (33:22)

'Say, 'If you love Allah, follow me: *then* will Allah love you and forgive you your faults. And Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful.' (3:32)

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Last Friday sermon mentioned that by following God's commandments one becomes a true *Abd*

Although there are numerous Quranic commandments to help one attain the objective of becoming an *Abd*,

But human nature is such that it is more influenced by practical example

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) presented a perfect and blessed model of how to follow all the Quranic commandments

The aforementioned verses draw attention to this subject and command that a Muslim claiming to have faith will accomplish faith and will gain nearness to God when he or she will follow the blessed model of the Prophet (pbuh).

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Without following his blessed model

Without following his blessed model it is pointless to hope for the Hereafter,

Dikhr (remembrance of God) cannot reach that stage from which one gains nearness to God,

salvation from sin is not possible

one cannot partake of God's *Raheemiyyat* (Divine quality of being Merciful)

one cannot attain God's love

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Some examples from the life of the Holy Prophet (pbuh)

Before presenting examples of the blessed model of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) which is guidance in becoming a true *Abd*, here is what the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) wrote about the status of the Holy Prophet (pbuh). He wrote:

'Say: O my servants who have committed excesses against your own selves despair not of the mercy of Allah, surely Allah will forgive all sins. [39:54] ..This verse was revealed in this form so that God Almighty might convey the good news of limitless mercies and might comfort those who are broken-hearted in consequence of their sins.

..

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Look at My beloved Messenger and see at what high rank he has arrived through his perfect obedience to Me that now all that is Mine is his. He who desires salvation should become his servant. That is to say, he should obey him so perfectly as if he was his slave. Then whatever sins he might have committed will be forgiven him. .. as it is said: **'...even a believing slave is better than an idolater...'** [2:222]. In the verse .., it is indicated that he who desires salvation should establish the relationship of a slave with this Prophet. That is to say, he should not step outside his commandment and should consider himself bound to his obedience as a slave is bound and he would then obtain salvation.

This is glad-tiding for that person who obeys the Prophet (pbuh) and follows him because his perfect following erases the worst of sins

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If one truly wishes to become an *Abd* and beloved of God it is most important to continue to follow the blessed model of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) rather than follow it at the odd opportunity

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'It should be remembered that the purport of the verse is that those who become the sincere servants of the Holy Prophet [pbuh] will be bestowed the light, the faith, the love and the passion which will deliver them from all that is beside Allah, and they will be freed from sins and will be bestowed a pure life in this world and they will be delivered from the narrow and dark graves of human passions

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The Holy Qur'an affirms it emphatically that that spiritual life is obtained only through following the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] and that all those who repudiate obedience to him are dead and do not possess that life. Spiritual life means the intellectual and active faculties which are brought to life by the Holy Spirit... The Holy Qur'an shows that the commandments of God to which He desires man to conform are six hundred

Having being declared as best of people, it is incumbent on us to try to bring about the spiritual revolution which we have been given the teaching for. We will only be able to reform others if we have reformed ourselves.

We should continue to self-reflect and see where and how are we making efforts. Indeed, a sinful person can go on to become an *Abd*, but only through following the perfect and blessed model of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) with all one's capacities.

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Some examples from the life of the Holy Prophet (pbuh)

Next some examples from the life of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) were presented.

He was that great Prophet who would be busy during the day in matters of governance and in the spiritual development of his followers. Yet, we do not find any impediment in his worship of God during day or during the night

It is God's favour on us that not only did He make us Muslims, He also enabled us to take the greetings of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) to His true and ardent devotee, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace).

It should be the effort of every Ahmadi to try and pay the dues of worship of God according to his or her capacity

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The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said that not utilising one's capacities and God's blessings, is insolence and the **correct use of one's capacities** is worship.

To use one's ears, eyes, tongue, hand and feet to do pious tasks becomes worship. Listening to pious matters with ears makes one recipient of God's pleasure whereas it is a sin to listen to back-biting

If one does not fast in spite of good health, it is also insolence and a sin

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Some examples from the life of the Holy Prophet (pbuh)

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) had remarkable forbearance and tolerance. He patiently listened to inappropriate outbursts of a Jew, when he was in real state of power

The Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) had a great sense of justice within the Muslims and with the enemy

The Prophet's (pbuh) respect for the sentiments of others is demonstrated in the tradition where a Jew came to him with the complaint that Hadhrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) had hurt his feelings by saying that Muhammad was superior to Moses. It is indeed a fact that the Holy Prophet (pbuh) was most excellent among all the Prophets. However, his judgment was in favour of the Jew and said that Hadhrat Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) should not have spoken to him in that manner.

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Some examples from the life of the Holy Prophet (pbuh)

The Holy Prophet's (pbuh) had great regards for people who served humanity

The Prophet's (pbuh) respected and honoured women saying, 'women are God's maids and are not your maids.'

In spite of his other demanding engagements, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) used to do household chores in a fine manner

Therein is a lesson for those men who think it is a sin for them to do house work and who think it is the duty of the wife to always serve food

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The Holy Prophet (pbuh) used to pray for his own children and other children who lived with him

He never punished children and always trained them with love and prayer

When the first fruit of the season came he would pray for the fruit to be blessed and then first give the fruit to the youngest child in the assembly

It is also related that he used to play with children

He repeatedly enjoined good treatment of neighbours. It is related that once he said: 'By God he is certainly not a believer, he is certainly not a believer, he is certainly not a believer.' When the Companions asked who he referred to, the Prophet said, 'one from whose harm and ill treatment his neighbour is not safe.'

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Some examples from the life of the Holy Prophet (pbuh)

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that salvation does not come from one's efforts, rather is brought about by God's grace and He never negates the law that He has fixed to attain that blessing. And the law is: **'Say, 'If you love Allah, follow me: then will Allah love you...' and 'And who seeks a religion other than Islam, it shall not be accepted from him...'** (3:86)

May God enable us to understand this reality and may this Ramadan depart having shown us its real insight and may we follow the blessed model till the next Ramadan, traversing new objectives