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| **دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة** |  | الجمعة: 17 رجب 1443هـ |
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**Allah calls you unto Paradise and Forgiveness**

**First Khutbah**

All praises are due to Allah, the Most generous, Most Merciful. The One who calls His slaves towards forgiveness and the Paradise of everlasting bliss. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the uniquely One, who has no partners in His one-ness. And I testify that our Sayyid, our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad, is the slave of Allah and His Messenger. O Allah, send Your peace and blessings upon him and upon whomsoever follows him in guidance until the Last Day.

**To Continue**: I advise you, O slaves of Allah and myself, with the Taqwa of Allah, for verily Allah says:

**‌وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي أَنْتُمْ بِهِ مُؤْمِنُونَ**

**And fear Allah, in whom you are believers.** [Qur'an: 5: 88]

**O Believers:** Indeed, Allah calls His slaves unto that wherein lies their felicity, in both this life and the next. So, He has called us, blessed be His name to sincere faith when He said:

**وَمَا لَكُمْ لَا تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولُ ‌يَدْعُوكُمْ ‌لِتُؤْمِنُوا بِرَبِّكُمْ**

**And why do you not believe in Allah while the Messenger invites you to believe in your Lord.** [Qur'an: 57: 8]

So, Allah calls us to His devotion, to perform our worship in the best of ways. Hence, He has mandated prayer upon the believers and established it to be performed in set times, wherein they are called to perform it by the Muadhin who literally says: "Come to Prayer. Come to Success." So what great glad tidings await the one who answers this call given to them from Allah, and who resultantly diligently practices and safeguards their prayers. As Allah says: **‌وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ**

**And establish prayer and give good tidings to the believers.**

[Qur'an:10: 87]

Similarly, Allah calls us to draw closer to Him by the means of giving charity wherein we have the opportunity to spend for the sake of goodness, when He says:

**هَا أَنْتُمْ هَؤُلَاءِ ‌تُدْعَوْنَ لِتُنْفِقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ**

**Here you are - those invited to spend in the cause of Allah.**

[Qur'an: 47: 38]

So those who give charity are the ones who have answered this call or invitation, these are those who are promised by Allah in the words of His Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) with the best of rewards. Rewards that will be multiplied manifold, as the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **كُلُّ عَمَلِ ابْنِ آدَمَ يُضَاعَفُ، الْحَسَنَةُ عَشْرُ أَمْثَالِهَا، ‌إِلَى ‌سَبْعمِائَة ‌ضِعْفٍ**

**All of the deeds done by a human being will be multiplied in its reward. For every good deed the reward will be ten times the likes of it, being multiplied to seven hundred times the likes of it [commensurate with the intention and sincerity of the person doing the deed].** [Sahih Muslim]

Our Lord is a generous Lord, Forgiving and Merciful, He is the One who calls His slaves unto His forgiveness, as Allah says:

**‌يَدْعُوكُمْ لِيَغْفِرَ لَكُمْ مِنْ ذُنُوبِكُمْ**

**He invites you that He may forgive you of your sins.**

[Qur'an: 14:10]

So, Allah is the Oft-Forgiving and He loves to forgive. He is the Mighty and Majestic and He loves to pardon and He calls us to deal with each other in this spirit of forgiveness and pardoning each other's shortcomings and overlooking any lapses. He calls us to this so we too can hope to attain the forgiveness of Allah in return, as He says: **وَلْيَعْفُوا وَلْيَصْفَحُوا ‌أَلَا ‌تُحِبُّونَ ‌أَنْ ‌يَغْفِرَ ‌اللَّهُ ‌لَكُمْ**

**So, let them pardon and overlook. Would you not like that Allah should forgive you?** [Qur'an: 24: 22]

Yes indeed, we would want Allah to forgive us. O Allah our Lord, we want you to forgive us, to remove from us our faults, and to enter us through Your mercy into Paradise. You are the One who says: **وَاللَّهُ ‌يَدْعُو إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ وَالْمَغْفِرَةِ بِإِذْنِهِ**

**But Allah invites to Paradise and to forgiveness, by His permission.** [Qur'an: 2:221]

O Allah make us from those who hear your call and invitation to draw near to You and who respond in the best of ways. Those who know and act upon what has been made obligatory upon them, and who safeguard and fulfil their responsibilities, attaining Your forgiveness thereby, entering into Your Paradise. I say this and I seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness, indeed He is the most forgiving, most Merciful.

**Second Khutbah**

All praises are due to Allah, the One. And may peace and blessings be upon our Sayyid, Sayyiduna Muhammad and upon all of his companions. I advise you slaves of Allah and myself with the Taqwa of Allah.

**O Believers:** Indeed, the believers are those who when they hear the call from their Lord, they respond in the best of ways and who hasten towards the doing of what He has commanded them, saying: **رَبَّنَا إِنَّنَا سَمِعْنَا مُنَادِيًا ‌يُنَادِي ‌لِلْإِيمَانِ أَنْ آمِنُوا بِرَبِّكُمْ فَآمَنَّا رَبَّنَا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَكَفِّرْ عَنَّا سَيِّئَاتِنَا وَتَوَفَّنَا مَعَ الْأَبْرَارِ\* رَبَّنَا وَآتِنَا مَا وَعَدْتَنَا عَلَى رُسُلِكَ وَلَا تُخْزِنَا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ إِنَّكَ لَا تُخْلِفُ الْمِيعَادَ**

**Our Lord, indeed we have heard a caller calling to faith, [saying], 'Believe in your Lord,' and we have believed. Our Lord, so forgive us our sins and remove from us our misdeeds and cause us to die with the righteous. Our Lord, and grant us what You promised us through Your messengers and do not disgrace us on the Day of Resurrection. Indeed, You do not fail in**

**[Your] promise."** [Qur'an: 3: 193-194]

So, these are those to whom Allah responds to their supplication, and whom Allah fulfils their hopes in Him, as He says: **فَاسْتَجَابَ لَهُمْ رَبُّهُمْ أَنِّي لَا أُضِيعُ عَمَلَ عَامِلٍ مِنْكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَى**

**And their Lord responded to them, "Never will I allow to be lost the work of [any] worker among you, whether male or female.** [Qur'an: 3:195]

Whoever answers the call of Allah; Allah answers his call, and whoever responds to Allah's command will find Allah answers their supplications; and whomsoever Allah answers their supplications will find their life becomes one full of felicity and happiness. These are those to whom He grants them His forgiveness and His pleasure, they are those whom He gives the life of eternal felicity and bliss by entering them into His paradise. May He make us from them, ameen.

And with this we ask You Allah that You send Your prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and Messengers, and especially on the seal of them, our master, our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad. O Allah send Your peace and blessings upon him, and upon his family, his companions, all of them. O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates and guide them to all that is good and what pleases You. O Allah: Bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace. O Allah have mercy on those martyred for Your sake, and grant them intercession for their people, and grant their families patience and a great reward. And have mercy, our Lord, upon our fathers and mothers, and upon whoever has a right upon us. Please continue sending Your blessings and bounties upon this nation the UAE, and upon all the Muslims and the entire Ummah wheresoever they may be. O Allah, confer upon us Your blessings upon us and do not make us from those who despair. O Allah: aid us, help us, and bless us. O Allah: bless us in this life with that which is good and in the next life that which is good, and save us from the hellfire. Believers, remember Allah and He will remember you, forget Him not, lest you be forgotten. Let us align ourselves towards Him sincerely, and align our hearts. So, stand up for prayer.