



The Value of Giving

First Sermon

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the heavens and the earth, who has encouraged us to give and to be generous, promising us the greatest rewards for it. I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah alone, without any partners, who gives without being asked, and I bear witness that our master and Prophet Sayyiduna Muhammad is His servant and messenger, who was more generous than the blowing wind. O Allah, bestow Your blessings, peace, and mercy upon him, his family, his companions, and all of those who follow him in goodness until the Day of Judgment.

To Continue: O people, have Taqwa of your Lord, and seek His assistance in righteousness with what He has provided you by giving to others and being generous to those around you. If you do so, Allah will make your affairs easy and bring happiness to you in this world and the Hereafter. For Allah, the Most High, says:

فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَعْطَىٰ وَاتَّقَىٰ * وَصَدَّقَ بِالْحُسْنَىٰ * فَسَنِيسِرُهُ لِيسرَىٰ

As for him who gives and is conscious (of Allah) and believes in the best reward, We will facilitate for him ease [Qur'an 92:5-7]

O Believers: Shall I inform you of a noble human value and an attribute that is a sincere manifestation of faith? It is the soul that is imbued with the spirit of giving, for such a soul finds that when it gives then its provision grows with

generosity, while the soul with greed finds that its real provision shrinks despite its efforts. Ramadan is an opportunity for us to inculcate this virtue, this attribute of giving, an attribute characterized by the Lord of creation. For Moses (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), said about his Lord: رَبُّنَا الَّذِي أَعْطَى كُلَّ شَيْءٍ خَلْقَهُ ثُمَّ هَدَى

Our Lord is He who gives each thing its form and then guided them [Qur'an 20:50].

This spirit of giving was a characteristic of our master and Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). His soul was generous, and his hand was always open. He gave without fear of poverty and expended for those who hoped for reward from Allah. Jabir (may Allah be pleased with him) said:

مَا سُئِلَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ شَيْئًا قَطُّ فَقَالَ: لَا

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was never asked for anything, and he said no. [Bukhari and Muslim]

As a poet said: The generous one is he when you come seeking goodness, showers you with what his hands hold. Even if there were nothing else in his hand but his soul, he would still give it.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) encouraged the people of his household to give, he said to Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her):

أَعْطِي وَلَا تُحْصِي

Give, and do not count. [Abu Dawud]

His guidance led his companions to be magnanimous, for the people of giving are the most beloved to Allah. It was said:

أَحَبُّ النَّاسِ إِلَى اللَّهِ أَنْفَعُهُمْ لِلنَّاسِ، وَأَحَبُّ الْأَعْمَالِ إِلَى اللَّهِ سُورٌ تُدْخِلُهُ عَلَى مُسْلِمٍ، أَوْ تَكْشِفُ عَنْهُ كُرْبَةً، أَوْ تَقْضِي عَنْهُ دَيْنًا، أَوْ تَطْرُدُ عَنْهُ جُوعًا، وَلَآنَ أَمْشِي مَعَ أَخٍ لِي فِي حَاجَةٍ؛ أَحَبُّ إِلَيَّ مِنْ أَنْ أَعْتَكِفَ فِي هَذَا الْمَسْجِدِ شَهْرًا

O Messenger of Allah, who are the most beloved people to Allah, and what are the most beloved deeds to Allah?" He said, "The most beloved people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to the people, and the most beloved deeds to Allah are to bring happiness to a Muslim, relieve him from distress, pay off his debt, or expel hunger from him. And if I walk with a brother regarding a need, it is more beloved to me than secluding myself in this mosque for a month. [Mu'jam Saghir for Tabarani]

In this hadith, by mosque, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was referring to the mosque in Medina. If we think about the sanctity of the Prophet's Mosque, then this shows the even greater sanctity of giving and helping those in need.

O people of generosity and giving, we are in the month of giving, the month of generosity and indeed, the forms of giving we can engage in are numerous, and its arenas are diverse. For a smile is charity, a kind word is charity, honoring the people of your household is charity, being kind to others is charity and relieving the distress of people is charity. Among the forms of giving is also giving

something as an endowment for the sake of Allah, seeking reward from Him as a form of perpetual charity. About such forms of perpetual charity, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

إِنَّ مِمَّا يَلْحَقُ الْمُؤْمِنَ مِنْ عَمَلِهِ وَحَسَنَاتِهِ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهِ: عِلْمًا عَلَّمَهُ
وَنَشْرَهُ، وَوَلَدًا صَالِحًا تَرَكَهُ، وَمُصْحَفًا وَرَّثَهُ، أَوْ مَسْجِدًا بَنَاهُ، أَوْ
بَيْتًا لِابْنِ السَّبِيلِ بَنَاهُ، أَوْ نَهْرًا أَجْرَاهُ، أَوْ صَدَقَةً أَخْرَجَهَا مِنْ
مَالِهِ فِي صِحَّتِهِ وَحَيَاتِهِ يَلْحَقُهُ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَوْتِهِ

Among what continues to benefit a believer after his death are knowledge which he taught and spread, a righteous child whom he left behind, a copy of the Quran which he left as a legacy, a mosque he built, a house he built for the traveler, a canal he dug, or charity he gave from his wealth during his health and life. They will reach him after his death.

[Sunan Ibn Majah]

Among what falls under the category of giving is what Allah has obligated upon His servants of Zakat (obligatory charity) from their wealth, to multiply their good deeds and to bless what He has provided for them. About Zakat, Allah, the Most High, says:

وَمَا آتَيْتُمْ مِنْ زَكَاةٍ تُرِيدُونَ وَجْهَ اللَّهِ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُضْعِفُونَ

And whatever you give for interest to increase within the wealth of people will not increase with Allah. But what you give in Zakah, desiring the countenance of Allah - those are the multipliers [Qur'an 30:39].

We ask Allah to make us hasten to give, to be among those who race towards goodness, and to accept our spending and giving and the righteous deeds. **O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you [Qur'an 4:59].** I say what you have heard, and I seek forgiveness from Allah for myself and for you.

Second Sermon

All praise is due to Allah, who has legislated for His servants acts of devotion that bring them closer to His pleasure and elevates their ranks in His Paradise. May peace and blessings be upon our master and Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad, the seal of the prophets, and upon his family, companions, and those who follow his guidance until the Day of Judgment.

O Believers:

Indeed with Allah are the treasures of goodness, and its keys are in the hands of the people of goodness. For the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **إِنَّ مِنَ النَّاسِ مَفَاتِيحَ لِلْخَيْرِ، مَغَالِيقَ لِلشَّرِّ، وَإِنَّ مِنْ**

**النَّاسِ مَفَاتِيحَ لِلشَّرِّ، مَغَالِيقَ لِلْخَيْرِ، فَطُوبَى لِمَنْ جَعَلَ اللهُ مَفَاتِيحَ
الْخَيْرِ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ**

Indeed, among the people are keys to goodness and locks to evil, and indeed, among the people are keys to evil and locks to goodness. So blessed is he whom Allah has made a key to goodness. [Ibn Majah]

Congratulations to those whom Allah has chosen to be a source of blessings for the benefit of His servants, granting them blessings in what they spend. He will surely replace

what they have spent with blessings that are manifold, so invest in the month of giving.

Amongst the people of giving was Sheikh Zayed, the man of giving, who laid the foundation of this nation upon generosity and benevolence. He left no door of goodness unopened, and no path to the benefit of others untrodden. Following his example, his righteous sons extended their charitable hands to the farthest corners of the earth, enriching many in need, relieving the distressed, and opening numerous gates of goodness. They presented to the world a model of generosity, difficult to attain. Therefore, let us all strive, O servants of Allah, to initiate every form and shape of giving, so that we may attain the love of our Lord, the pleasure of our Creator, the happiness of our community, and let our nation, the United Arab Emirates, remain an example of giving and a pioneer in generosity.

May Allah send His blessings and peace upon our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, his family, companions, and followers. May Allah be pleased with the rightly guided caliphs and the rest of the honorable companions. O Allah, make us among those who are guided to perform righteous deeds, acts of charity, and benevolence in Ramadan. Indeed, some of Your servants have made charity their habit and benefiting others with their character, so bless them in what You have given them, have mercy on those who have passed away among them, make what they have given a means of intercession for them, and a benefit for their families after them.

O Allah, bestow Your abundant grace and kindness upon those whose names are synonymous with giving and whose

proof is in their generosity, those such as Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah have mercy on him. O Allah, he founded our nation and showered us with his generosity, so, O Lord, write his name among the highest ranks, elevate his status among the guided ones, and admit him into Paradise with the Prophets, the truthful, the martyrs, and the righteous.

O Allah, he adorned the world with his humanitarian deeds and charitable projects. How many endowments he established and how many destitute he supported and enriched! So, O our Lord, envelop him with Your mercy, encompass him with Your forgiveness and pardon. O Allah, have mercy on Sheikh Rashid, the founding leaders, Sheikh Maktoum, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, and admit them, by Your favor, into Your vast gardens. O Allah, include the martyrs of the nation in Your mercy and forgiveness.

O Allah, grant stability and security to the United Arab Emirates, and spread mercy, peace, love, and tranquility throughout the world. O Allah, grant success to the President of the UAE, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, his deputies, his brothers, and the rulers of the Emirates, and to his trustworthy Crown Prince, for what You love and are pleased with.

O Allah, have mercy on the Muslim men and women, the believers, and the believers, the living and the dead. O servants of Allah, remember Allah, and He will remember you, and thank Him for His blessings, and He will increase you. Stand up for prayer.