

THEME 18 - COVERING UP PEOPLE'S FAULTS

سِتْرُ عَوْرَاتِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

Learning objectives:

- To learn that protecting people's honour by hiding their faults is a virtue that is highly rewarded.
- To be able to explain why covering up faults is good.
- To understand that looking for faults in other people is a sin.

In this theme, you will learn:

Covering people's faults means to avoid spreading hateful information about another person with the intention of causing them harm. It also means not to look for faults and weaknesses in other people, as well as hiding other people's fault, by doing so Allah will hide your faults. Not to be too critical of others is another way of covering others faults. If you want to correct others then be tactful.

قَالَ اللهُ تَعَالَى: ﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَ أَنْ تَشِيعَ الْفَاحِشَةُ فِي الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ﴾ [النور: 19].

Allah ﷻ says: "Those who like to spread indecency among the believers will suffer a painful punishment in this worldly life and

the Hereafter” (24:19).

[1] عن أبي هريرة عن النبي قَالَ: «لَا يَسْتُرُ عَبْدٌ عَبْدًا فِي الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا سَتَرَهُ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ» رواه مسلم.

1. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: The Prophet ﷺ said, “On the day of Judgment Allah will cover up the faults of a person who covered up faults of others.”

COMMENTARY: This hadith teaches us the importance of covering up the faults of others. When we do this, we are not only helping the other person, but we are also helping ourselves. This is because Allah will reward us for our good deeds, and He will cover up our own faults on the Day of Judgment.

[2] عن أبي هريرة قَالَ : سمعت رَسُولَ اللَّهِ يقول : «كُلُّ أُمَّتِي مُعَافَى إِلَّا الْمُجَاهِرِينَ، وَإِنَّ مِنَ الْمُجَاهِرَةِ أَنْ يَعْمَلَ الرَّجُلُ بِاللَّيْلِ عَمَلًا، ثُمَّ يُصْبِحُ وَقَدْ سَتَرَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ، فَيَقُولُ: يَا فُلَانُ، عَمِلْتَ الْبَارِحَةَ كَذَا وَكَذَا، وَقَدْ بَاتَ يَسْتُرُهُ رَبُّهُ، وَيُصْبِحُ يَكْشِفُ سِتْرَ اللَّهِ عَنْهُ» مُتَّفَقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

2. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “All my followers will be forgiven except those who reveal their wrongdoings. For example a man who sins at night and Allah has covered it up, but in the morning, he brags about it saying: I committed such and such sin last night, whilst Allah had kept it a secret.”

COMMENTARY: This hadith teaches us the importance of concealing our sins. When we sin, we should repent to Allah and ask for His forgiveness. However, we should not reveal our sins to others, as this will only make our sins worse.

This is because when we reveal our sins, we are inviting punishment from Allah. The hadith also teaches us the importance of humility. When we sin, we should be humble and ask Allah for forgiveness. We should not be proud of our sins, and we should not brag about them to others.

[3] عن أبي هريرة قَالَ: أُتِيَ النَّبِيَّ بِرَجُلٍ قَدْ شَرِبَ خَمْرًا، قَالَ: «اضْرِبُوهُ» قَالَ أَبُو هُرَيْرَةَ: فَمِنَّا الضَّارِبُ بِيَدِهِ، وَالضَّارِبُ بِنَعْلِهِ، وَالضَّارِبُ بِثَوْبِهِ. فَلَمَّا انْصَرَفَ، قَالَ بَعْضُ الْقَوْمِ: أَخْزَاكَ اللَّهُ، قَالَ: «لَا تَقُولُوا هَكَذَا، لَا تُعِينُوا عَلَيْهِ الشَّيْطَانَ» رواه البخاري.

3. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: A drunkard was brought to the Prophet ﷺ and he told us to beat him; some struck him with their hands, others with their garments and sandals. When the drunkard had left, someone said: “May Allah disgrace you!” He ﷺ said, “Do not say that. Do not help the devil against him.”

Activities:

- Explain why it is important not to openly share when someone is doing something bad.
- Discuss the importance of covering up people’s faults.
- Role-play: Act out scenarios where you need to cover up someone’s faults.

In this theme you have learnt:

- A painful punishment awaits those who like indecency to spread among the believers.
- Do not say bad things about another person even if they are

true.

- The importance of respecting others.
- You can tell an adult if someone bullies someone else.
- On Day of Judgment Allah will cover up the faults of a person who used to cover up faults of others.