Theme 23 - Show humility and treat others well

التَّوَاضُعُ وَخَفْضِ الْجَنَاحِ لِلْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ

Learning objectives:

- To learn the meaning of humility.
- To learn that gentleness is a quality of Allah ﷻ.
- To copy the gentle character of the Prophet ﷺ.

In this theme, you will learn:

Treat others the way you wish to be treated, this is a golden rule found in all religions and cultures. Your actions, words and manners should be polite and gentle at all times. Allah ﷻ loves gentleness. You must control your anger before it turns destructive. By treating others well and controlling your anger, you will feel good about yourself and gain trust and respect. Examples of treating others well may include friendliness, overcoming prejudice, being helpful and compassionate.

قَالَ الله تَعَالَى: ﴿ وَالكَاظِمِينَ الغَيْظَ وَالعَافِينَ عَنِ النَّاسِ وَاللهُ يُحِبُّ المُحْسِنِينَ﴾ [آل عمران :134]. وقال تَعَالَى: ﴿خُذِ الْعَفْوَ وَأْمُرْ بِالعُرْفِ وَأَعْرِضْ عَنِ الجَاهِلِينَ﴾ [الأعراف :199]. وقال تَعَالَى: ﴿وَلَمنْ صَبَرَ وَغَفَرَ إِنَّ ذَلِكَ لَمِنْ عَزْمِ الأُمُورِ﴾ [الشورى :43].

Allah ﷻ says: “Those who spend in charity in good and bad times, can control their anger and pardon people” (3:134). “Pardon them, enjoin the common good, and avoid ignorant people” (7:199). “Whoever is patient and forgives, now these are things one ought to do” (42:43).

[1] عن ابن عباس قَالَ: قَالَ رسولُ الله لأَشَجِّ عَبْدِ القَيْسِ: «إِنَّ فيكَ خَصْلَتَيْنِ يُحِبُّهُمَا اللهُ: الْحِلْمُ وَالأَنَاةُ» رواه مسلم.

1. Ibn ʻAbbas ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said to Ashaj Abdul-Qais ﷺ, “You have two unique qualities that Allah loves. These are gentleness and tolerance.”

[2] عن عائشة قالت قَالَ رسول الله: «إِنَّ اللهَ رفيقٌ يُحِبُّ الرِّفْقَ فِي الأَمْرِ كُلِّه» متفقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

2. ʻAisha ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “Allah is gentle and loves gentleness in all matters.”

Commentary: This hadith highlights the gentle and merciful nature of Allah and emphasises the importance of practicing gentleness in all aspects of life. It teaches us that kindness, patience, and tenderness are qualities that are cherished by Allah.

[3] عن عائشة أَنَّ النبي قَالَ: «إِنَّ اللهَ رَفِيقٌ يُحِبُّ الرِّفقَ، وَيُعْطي عَلَى الرِّفق، مَا لا يُعْطِي عَلَى العُنْفِ، وَمَا لا يُعْطِي عَلَى مَا سِوَاهُ» رواه مسلم.

3. ʿAisha ﵂ reported: The Prophet ﷺ said, "Allah is gentle and He loves gentleness, and rewards gentleness but does not like harshness."

[4] عن عائشة أَنَّ النبي قَالَ: «إِنَّ الرِّفْقَ لا يَكُونُ في شَيْءٍ إلا زَانَهُ، وَلا يُنْزَعُ مِنْ شَيْءٍ إلا شَانَهُ» رواه مسلم.

4. ʿAisha ﵂ reported: The Prophet ﷺ said, "Gentleness decorates and beautifies good actions and the lack of gentleness makes them defective."

[5] عن أَبي هريرة قَالَ: بَال أَعْرَابِيٌّ في المسجدِ، فَقَامَ النَّاسُ إِلَيْهِ لِيَقَعُوا فِيهِ، فَقَالَ النبيُّ: «دَعُوهُ وَأَرِيقُوا عَلَى بَوْلِهِ سَجْلاً مِنْ مَاءٍ، أَوْ ذَنُوباً مِنْ مَاءٍ، فَإِنَّمَا بُعِثْتُمْ مُيَسِّرِينَ وَلَم تُبْعَثُوا مُعَسِّرِينَ» رواه البخاري.

5. Abu Hurairah ﵁ reported: A Bedouin urinated in the mosque and this really annoyed some people, the Prophet ﷺ said to them: "Leave him alone and pour a bucket of water over it. You have been sent to make things easy and not to make them difficult."

Commentary: This hadith showcases the Prophet's wisdom, compassion, and practical approach to dealing with challenging situations. In this incident, a Bedouin mistakenly urinated in the mosque, which naturally caused anger and frustration among the people present. However, the Prophet intervened and instructed them to refrain from punishing or harming the individual. Instead, he emphasised the importance of making things easy and avoiding unnecessary hardship.

[6] عن أنس عن النبي قَالَ: «يَسِّرُوا وَلا تُعَسِّرُوا، وَبَشِّرُوا وَلا تُنَفِّرُوا» متفقٌ عَلَيْهِ.

6. Anas ﷺ reported: The Prophet ﷺ said, “Make things easy and do not make things difficult, make people happy by giving glad tidings and do not turn people away.”

[7] عن جريرِ بنِ عبدِ اللهِ قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ رسولَ اللهِ يقولُ: «مَنْ يُحْرَمِ الرِفْقَ، يُحْرَمِ الخَيْرَ كلَّهُ » رواه مسلم.

7. Jarir bin ‘Abdullah ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, “A person who is not gentle is deprived of good.”

[8] عن أَبي هريرة أَنَّ رَجُلاً قَالَ للنبيِّ: أَوْصِني. قَالَ: «لا تَغْضَبْ»، فَرَدَّدَ مِرَاراً، قَالَ: «لا تَغْضَبْ» رواه البخاري.

8. Abu Hurairah ﷺ reported: A man asked the Prophet ﷺ “Give me some advice” and he ﷺ said, “Don’t be angry.” The man repeated that several times and he ﷺ replied (every time), “Don’t be angry.”

[9] عن ابن مسعود قَالَ: قَالَ رسول الله: «ألا أُخْبِرُكُمْ بِمَنْ يَحْرُمُ عَلَى النَّارِ؟ أَوْ بِمَنْ تَحْرُمُ عَلَيْهِ النَّارُ؟ تَحْرُمُ عَلَى كُلِّ قَرِيبٍ، هَيِّنٍ، لَيِّنٍ، سَهْلٍ» رواه الترمذي

9. Ibn Mas'ud ﷺ reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "Let me tell you of a person who will be kept far away from hell fire; the one who is approachable, polite and easy-going."

Activities:

- Design a poster on how to treat others well.
- Write an article about 'how treating others well is beneficial'.
- Write down all the names of Allah which reflect His gentle, kind and merciful nature.
- Discuss different scenarios at times of anger and time of patience. E.g. your neighbour, whom you don't get on with, has been locked out of his house; how do you respond?
- Sit in a circle; Each one give two reasons why you should treat others well.

In this theme you have learnt:

- Allah is gentle and He loves gentleness.
- Give to others in good times and difficult times and restrain your anger.
- Learn to forgive quickly.
- Treat others the way you would like to be treated.
- Respect others in the community.
- Don't get angry so easily.
- Make things easy and do not make them difficult.