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Lesson 26: Expenditure

Kinds of Expenditure

{يَسْأَلُونَكَ مَاذَا يُنفِقُونَ قُلْ مَا أَنفَقْتُم مِّنْ خَيْرٍ فَلِلْوَالِدَيْنِ وَالْأَقْرَبِينَ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينِ وَابْنِ السَّبِيلِ وَمَا تَفْعَلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَإِنَّ اللَّـهَ بِهِ عَلِيمٌ}

***They will question thee concerning what they should expend. Say: 'Whatsoever good you expend is for parents and kinsmen, orphans, the needy, and the traveller; and whatever good you may do, God has knowledge of it.'* (*Al Baqarra 2:215*).**

Expenditure is of five types:

1. Obligatory expenditure: Such as Khums, Zakat, Kaffara, sacrificial and livelihood to our parents, children and partners (upon the husband).

2. Recommended expenditure: Helping the needy, orphans, and gifts to friends.

3. Banned expenditure: Such as spending money that has been unlawfully obtained or in the way of sin.

4. Disliked expenditure: Such as spending for others while there is needy kinsfolk.

5. General (other) expenditure: Spending for others to improve lifestyle, as opposed to help lift poverty which is mandatory or recommended.

The Best Kind of Expenditure

{لَن تَنَالُوا ٱلْبِرَّ حَتَّىٰ تُنفِقُوا مِمَّا تُحِبُّونَ}

***You will not attain piety until you expend of what you love;* (*Al Imran 3:92*(**

The term “Al-Birr” in the above Ayah (translated as piety above), refers to goodness and blessings, and used in a place where there is farming and/or life develops. And with attention to the linguistic derivation of the word referring to the expansion of goodness, in the Holy Qur’an, faith, pious deeds, Jihad, prayers and keeping one’s word are samples of piety (or Al-Bir).

It has been recommended that in the process of piety one should accompany and assist each other.

{وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى ٱلْبِرِّ}

Help one another to piety (***Al Maida 5:2***)

And the road to this priceless gem is in the above Ayah (3:92).

A Sample Of The Expenditure Of The Believers

1. Abu Talha Ansari, who had the most number of date palm trees in the Holy City of Medina and beautiful, prestige garden which produced a handsome income. This garden was opposite the Mosque of the Prophet, and had a water spring with crystal clear waters flowing from it. The Prophet (pbuh) would from time to time enter this garden to drink from the spring. When this Ayah “You will not attain piety until you expend of what you love” was revealed, Abu Talha Ansari came to the Prophet and said that the most beloved to me is this garden, and I want to give it in the way of Allah. The Prophet said that this is a good trade, and offered his praise, but suggested to offer this garden to the needy of his family and relatives. He accepted, and the garden was divided among them.

2. On the wedding night of Syeda Fatima Al Zahra (pbuh), a poor person requested of her some old clothes. Syeda Fatima (pbuh), with this Ayah in mind, changed out of her wedding garments and bestowed that to her.

3. Some guests entered upon Abu Dhar, and Abu Dhar said since he was pre-occupied, to slaughter a camel and prepare the meal. The guests choose a slim camel. Abu Dhar became somewhat uneasy and asked why they choose such skinny camel, to which the guests replied they left the other ones for a day when you would need them. Abu Dhar replied: The day I am in need is the day I am in my grave.

The Hand Of The Needy Is The Hand Of Allah

Imam Sadiq (pbuh) stated that the alms does not reach the hand of the needy unless it goes through the Hand of Allah first. Then he recited this Ayah:

{أَلَمْ يَعْلَمُوٓا أَنَّ ٱللَّـهَ هُوَ يَقْبَلُ ٱلتَّوْبَةَ عَنْ عِبَادِهِۦ وَيَأْخُذُ ٱلصَّدَقَـٰتِ}

Do they not know that God is He who accepts repentance from His servants, and takes the freewill offerings, and that God. (***Al Tawba 9:104***).

Now that the receiver of the alms is Allah, so we should not only be giving to the needy with the warmest of heart, but be giving the best quality and in the best possible way.

When giving wealth in the way of Allah has the ability to ability to grow in to 700 times over and more, then what of the giving of life and soul in the way of Allah?

Martyrdom The Giving Of The Soul

{وَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّ ٱلَّذِينَ قُتِلُوا فِى سَبِيلِ ٱللَّـهِ أَمْوَٰتًا بَلْ أَحْيَآءٌ عِندَ رَبِّهِمْ يُرْزَقُونَ}

Count not those who were slain in God's way as dead, but rather living with their Lord, by Him provided. (***Al Imran 3:169***).

On the basis that we count those who are martyred as alive, we speak with them, send our peace and blessings to them and seek their intercession, especially the martyrs of Karbala. And now, some points about martyrdom are due to be clarified:

1. It has been narrated that there are seven attributes that are Divinely gifted to martyrs: The first drop of blood grants complete forgiveness of all sins, their heads rest on the laps of fair women with large beautiful eyes, will be adorned in heavenly clothes, perfumed with the most sensual perfumes, will be able to see their place in heaven, they are allowed to wander through the entire heaven, curtains will be moved so they can seek to see Gods face.

2. In narrations, it is stated for every good there is better, except for martyrdom for which anything better cannot be imagined.

3. On the day of resurrection, a martyr will have the honourable position of intercessor.

4. They will enter through specially designated doors, enter Paradise before everyone else and have a designated area in Heaven.

5. Imam Ali (AS), having multiple special attributes, only at the moment of being struck and meeting his martyrdom, said “I swear by the Lord of The Kabbah I have become victorious”. He was the first to embrace Islam, to sleep in the place of the Prophet (to protect him from a plot to kill him while asleep), became the brother of the Prophet, had the only door access direct to the Prophets Mosque in Medina from his home (while all others were ordered closed), is the father of the Imams and husband of Syeda Fatima Al Zahra (Divinely Guided daughter of the Prophet). He destroyed idols, and his striking of the sword in Battle of Khandaq was better than the worship by the Jinn and mankind combined, but he did

not say “I have become victorious” in any of these cases.

6. Imam Ali (pbuh) swore by his Lord that the soul of the son of Abu Taleb is in his own hands, tolerating a thousand strikes by a sword for the sake of Allah is easier than death while asleep in bed.

The Best Deed

{خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ بِالْحَقِّ وَصَوَّرَكُمْ فَأَحْسَنَ صُوَرَكُمْ وَإِلَيْهِ الْمَصِيرُ}

He created the heavens and the earth with the truth, and He shaped you, and shaped you well; and unto Him is the homecoming. (***Taghabun 64:3***)

All of Allah’s (SWT) Deeds are the best deeds:

1. His creation is the best creation.1

2. His book, the Holy Qur’an, is the best book.2

3. His stories are the best stories.3

4. His names are the best names.4

5. His rewards are the best rewards.5

6. His promises are the best there is.6

7. His judgement is the best of judgements.7

Allah also wants of us to select act upon the best of deeds, for example:

1. In our speech, say nothing but the best.8

2. In our deeds, do the very best of.9

3. In our altercations, have the best of manners.10

4. In discussions and debates, choose the best of methods.11

5. In gratitude and thankfulness, have the best of ways.12

6. Choose to listen to the very best of sayings.13

7. In monitoring the money of the orphaned, using the very best of methodologies.14

8. Our motivations, to have the purest of intentions and desires towards Allah, so that our deeds are

tainted with the colour of Allah[15].

1. Al Muiminoon 23:14
2. Az Zumar 39:23
3. Yusuf 12:3
4. Al Araaf 7:180
5. Al Kahf 18:88
6. An Nissa 4:95
7. Maida 5:50
8. Al Isra 17:53
9. Al Kahf 18:7
10. Al Muiminoon 23:96
11. Al Nahl 16:125
12. An Nissa 4:86
13. Az Zumar 39:18
14. Al Isra 17:34
15. Al Anaam 6:125

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