



# **ALI 255: Spiritual Lessons from the Life of the Holy Prophet (s)**


## **Session Three: Leadership of the Holy Prophet (s)**

How would you define spiritual leadership?

What qualities make a successful spiritual leader?

# A Spiritual Leader - Qualities

- Has a vision
- Leads by example in all aspects of life
- Is focused on the goal
- Is determined and persistent
- Works tirelessly
- Makes people think differently
- Is selfless
- Has a strong connection to the Divine
- Is concerned for others and wants them to achieve the best



I define spiritual leadership  
as knowing where God wants people to be  
and taking the initiative to use God's methods  
to get them there  
in reliance on God's power.

**<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-marks-of-a-spiritual-leader>**

# The Prophet (a): A servant of Allah

The Holy Prophet (s) always considered himself first a servant of Allah, then a Messenger of Allah.

When the Holy Prophet (s) occupied himself in prayer, he stood for so long that his feet were swollen. He was asked: "Allah's Messenger, you do this despite the fact that all your sins have been pardoned for you?"

He replied: "Should I not prove to be a thankful servant (of Allah)?"

# The Prophet: A Mercy to the worlds

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

*And We have not sent you but as a mercy to the worlds*

**Sura Anbiya, 21:107**

The Holy Prophet (s) was merciful to:

- his family
- children
- friends/believers
- non believers
- animals

# The Prophet (s) :A Listener

وَمِنْهُمْ الَّذِينَ يُؤْذُونَ النَّبِيَّ وَيَقُولُونَ هُوَ أَدْنَىٰ ج قُلْ  
أَذُنٌ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَيُؤْمِنُ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَرَحْمَةٌ  
لِّلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ

And there are some of them who trouble the Prophet and say: He is one who believes every thing that he hears; say: A hearer of good for you, (who) believes in Allah and believes the faithful and a mercy for those of you who believe.

**Sura Tawbah, 9:61**

# The Prophet (s): Leading with Love

There has certainly come to you a Messenger from among yourselves, grievous to him is your distress, he has deep concern for you, and is compassionate and merciful to the believers.

**Sura Tawbah, 9:127**

You will put your life in peril for their sake, out of grief, if they should not believe in this discourse

**Sura Kahf, 18:6**