

Sura Qasas, verse 76

إِنَّ قَارُونَ كَانَ مِنْ قَوْمِ مُوسَىٰ فَبَغَىٰ عَلَيْهِمْ ۖ وَأَتَيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْكُنُوزِ مَا
 إِنَّ مَفَاتِحَهُ لَتَنُوءُ بِالْعُصْبَةِ أُولِي الْقُوَّةِ إِذْ قَالَ لَهُ قَوْمُهُ لَا تَفْرَحْ ۖ إِنَّ
 اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْفَرِحِينَ

Surely Qarun was from the people of Musa but he went against them. We had given him so much treasure that their chests were heavy for a group of strong men. His people said to him: Do not exult, surely Allah does not love those who exult

Reflections

- How did Qarun go against the people of Nabi Musa?
- What was Qarun's test?
- Wealth makes you do strange things. What was Qarun doing?
- How would people feel when they saw Qarun?
- What can we understand by the word 'exult' - how is it manifested; physically, emotionally, spiritually . . .

Tafsir

Nabi Musa had to struggle against many forces. One of them was wealth accompanied by pride and arrogance, in the form of a wealthy man called Qarun. He was related to Nabi Musa, some say he was a cousin or an uncle. He was from among the group of believers who had faith in Nabi Musa. He used to recite the Taurat beautifully. He was also among the 70 people who went with Nabi Musa to the mountain when he went to receive the Taurat. But slowly his wealth made him proud and he rebelled against Nabi Musa and what he preached.

Qarun did not have strong faith with conviction. When faced with the test of wealth he quickly gave in to it and lost his faith. When a person is strong in his convictions he is firm against the various tests of faith he is put through. A test of faith sifts out those who are sincere from those who are not. Going against his people means he felt superior to them and showed off his wealth to them instead of helping them.

Qarun had a lot of wealth in the form of gold and silver, as well as precious gems. He stored them in wooden chests that were very heavy. When a group of strong men got together to lift

them they swayed a little with the weight of the chests. Lifting them was not an easy job even for strong men. This description is to visualize the amount of wealth that Qarun possessed.

The people of Qarun told him not to exult - exult is a word that means happy but proudly happy, almost boasting, showing off. It was mixed with vanity, heedlessness, arrogance It starts with a thought of superiority and feeling that success is independent of Allah. Those thoughts then become attitudes which are physically manifested in proud postures and gestures.

Hadith

Love of wealth weakens faith and spoils *Yaqin* (certainty)

Imam Ali (a)

Ghurarul Hikam, pg 376

God has not tested the creatures with a harder test than giving out from their wealth [in His way]

Imam Sadiq (a)

Bihar al Anwar, Vol. 70, pg 139

Wealth is a trust from Allah

Imam Sadiq (a)

Bihar al Anwar, Vol. 103, pg 16

Important Lessons

- 1) History has important lessons for us to learn from. We need to read the stories of Qurana nd ponder over them so we can apply these lessons to our lives.
- 2) Having a good past does not mean you will have a good present or future. Qarun was from among the respected elders with Nabi Musa but he changed and went astray.
- 3) Wealth and other blessings from God are a test of faith.
- 4) The poor or the not so wealthy can still advise the wealthy and try to guide them.

Practical Implementation

- 1) Does a blessing in your life change you? make you feel superior? Could be wealth, intelligence, beauty . . .
- 2) All blessings are from God, to test our faith.

Possible Ideas for activities

- let children draw the chests of treasures of Qarun. How could those be used to pass the test? (gratitude, simplicity, charity, investing in good causes . . .)
- role playing - children can act out the conversation between Qarun and the people, using words from the verse.
- Qarun Profile - Get children to think about some questions on Qarun. See <http://fno.org/bio/QUEST.HTM>. They could then make a brief profile.
- Poem on Qarun and his qualities

Sources:

Āytaullāh Nāsir Makārim Shirāzī (ed), *Tafsīr-e Namūneh*;
Aghae Muhsin Qaraati, *Tafsire Nur*