

## Sura Qasas, verse 77

وَابْتَغِ فِيمَا آتَاكَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ ۖ وَلَا تَنْسَ نَصِيبَكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا ۗ وَأَحْسِنَ ۚ كَمَا أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ ۖ وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفُسَادَ فِي الْأَرْضِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ

*And seek the Hereafter through what Allah has given you, and do not forget your share of this world, do good the way Allah has done good to you, and do not seek corruption on earth, surely Allah does not love those who spread corruption.*

**Reflections**

- What are the four things the people of Qarun tell him in this verse?
- How would you describe the people of Qarun? (concerned, responsible, caring, wise . . .)
- What should you do with a blessing, according to the first two points of advice in this verse?
- How can you do good to others?
- what is seeking corruption on earth?

**Tafsir**

The people of Qarun continue to advise him. In verse 76 they told him not to exult. In this verse they tell him:

- a) Whatever Allah has given you of wealth in this world, use it for the Hereafter. Spend your wealth in the way of Allah and please Him.
- b) You can spend what you need on yourself. Have a share of your wealth for your own needs but the rest belongs to others.
- c) Help others and be good to them the way God has been good to you.
- d) Do not do wrong on earth and spread evil and oppression through the wealth you have. Allah does not like such people.

Wealth or any other blessing bestowed by the Almighty is a good thing when it is used in the correct way. If it is used for the pleasure of Allah it can be a huge asset. But if it is only used for personal growth and brings pride, selfishness. . . etc. it is a misfortune for the person. The world is a sowing ground for the Hereafter and any good that is done will be seen in the Hereafter.

Imam Ali (a) under the Tafsir of this verse says that whatever God has blessed you with, of health, ability, free time, youth, and energy should all be used to seek the Hereafter. Sometimes a human being has so much intelligence that he can use it not only for himself but to benefit his community, his country. The same thing applies to a talent he possesses, or any other blessing. It is not just for his own use but for the use of society. Qarun could have benefitted many people through his wealth but his pride and vanity made him think only of himself.

Human beings want Allah to do good to them. They want Him to fulfill their needs, overlook their mistakes, forgive them . . . They also must do the same for others. After all they are God's representatives on earth. They must do to others what they want God to do to them.

The corruption that would spread on the earth would be a result of not listening to the advice of the wise people. Through his pride and arrogance Qarun could spread jealousy, discontent, greed, oppression and many forms of evil on earth. There would also be injustice and poverty due to not sharing his wealth with the needy.

The wise people from the community of Nabi Musa advise Qarun and are not intimidated by his wealth and boasting. They show concern and responsibility by telling him many things about his behaviour. It is the duty of people to advise one another so that society can progress.

## Hadith

*He sent provision ahead of himself for his home in the next world*

Imam Ali (a) describing a believer

Nahjul Balagha, Khutba #83

*O son of Adam, whatever you earn beyond your basic needs you are only a treasurer of it for others.*

Imam Ali (a)

Nahjul Balagha Hadith #192

## Important Lessons

- 1) Blessings should be used for the world as much as necessary. The rest should be used for the Hereafter.
- 2) In whatever blessing God has given you there is a share for others.
- 3) Be good to others and avoid spreading negativity and wrong things.
- 4) Advise others, even those who have some position or authority.

## **Practical Implementation**

- 1) What blessing do you have to share with others?
- 2) How can you be from those who spread good and not from those who spread wrong on earth?

## **Story**

### Not being greedy for wealth

Among the people of Nabi Musa lived a young man with his father and mother. The father owned a beautiful cow. He loved the cow and it was his prized possession. He was proud of the beauty of the cow.

The son was a faithful believer. He listened to Nabi Musa and followed his teachings. He worked as a merchant and sold goods to other people. He kept all his goods in a room and locked the room to keep it safe. Whenever he brought a customer to see his goods he would unlock the room and show them what he had. When he was away he would leave the key with his father so the father could show customers the goods while he was away.

One day he brought home some customers to see his goods. When he went to take the key from his father he saw that he was sleeping. He knew that the key was under his father's pillow. That is where he kept it always. Out of consideration for his father he decided not to wake him up even though it meant losing his customers.

When the father awoke he realized what had happened. His son had sacrificed a profitable sale for his comfort. He was very pleased with his son and wanted to reward him to show his appreciation. He gave him his beautiful cow as a gift. From that day on the cow became the prized possession of the son.

Morals:

- Don't be too greedy for wealth (or blessings)
- Some things are more important than money
- Parents deserve the utmost consideration

(Source of story - Biharul Anwar, Vol.13, pg 259)

**Possible Ideas for activities**

- write out the four points of advice on a poster. Children could write or draw under each point.
- Let children design a self help poster on what to do when becoming afflicted with pride for a blessing (prepare for the Hereafter, do good to others, thank Allah . . .)
- act out the conversation between the people and Qarun, using the words from Quran.
- Let each child pick a blessing they have. Discuss/write/draw how the blessing can be used for the world and the hereafter. A good example is the blessing of a spacious house and the advice of Imam Ali (a) - check <https://www.al-islam.org/nahjul-balagha-part-1-sermons/sermon-209-what-will-you-do-vast-house-world>

**Sources:**

Āytaullāh Nāsir Makārim Shirāzī (ed), *Tafsīr-e Namūneh*;

Aghae Muhsin Qaraati, *Tafsire Nur*

Shaykh Rizwan Arastu, *God's Emissaries: Adam to Jesus*