

Quran Appreciation - Winter Term (Jan-Mar 2018)

The Story of Nabi Isa (a)

The Reward of the Righteous

Verses for the session

قَالَ اللَّهُ هَذَا يَوْمٌ يَنْفَعُ الصَّادِقِينَ صِدْقُهُمْ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ
خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ ذَلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ

Allah will say: This is the day when their truth shall benefit the truthful ones; they shall have gardens beneath which rivers flow to live in them for ever: Allah is well pleased with them and they are well pleased with Allah; this is the mighty achievement.

لِلَّهِ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا فِيهِنَّ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

To Allah belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth and what is in them; and He has power over all things.

(Sura Maidah, verses 119-120)

Reflections

- How will the truth benefit the truthful ones? What truth is this? Truth in this world, or truth in the Hereafter?
- How many rewards are mentioned in this verse?
- What is the greatest achievement?

Cross Reference verses

Pleasure of Allah on the Day of Judgment - 9:72

Success in the Hereafter - The greatest achievement - 48:5, 33:71

Rewards of the Hereafter - See description in Sura Waqiah, 56:15-21, 28-34

Be with the truthful ones - 9:119

Being true to the covenant with Allah - 33:23

Tafsir

After the conversation between Allah and Nabi Isa Allah talks about the rewards for the truthful ones. These are the one who were truthful in the world, in their speech and action. In the

Hereafter no one can be untruthful. Even those who have done wrong in the world will confess on that day and will not be able to cover up the truth of what they did. Everything will be brought forth and no one can lie on that day.

Truth here refers to accepting the true message and living by it. It means being truthful to the duty to Allah. All goodness and virtue comes from being truthful to the responsibility of being the Khalifa of Allah on earth. To be truthful to it is to live according to its expectations and being worthy of it. It includes but is not restricted to being truthful in speech.

Such people who will be rewarded on that day will include the Prophets, their representatives and their followers. They will enjoy the happiness that comes from physical joys of being in Heaven such as the gardens and rivers. They will also relish the spiritual joy of knowing that Allah is pleased with them. That is the highest level of happiness for a believer. Without that all the rewards of Heaven can become meaningless.

Spiritual joys and spiritual punishments are of the utmost importance to a believer. Imam Ali (a) in Dua Kumayl says; *Then if, My God, my Master, my Protector and my Lord I am able to endure Your chastisement, How can I endure separation from You? And if I am able to endure the heat of Your fire, How can I endure not gazing upon Your generosity? It is God's pleasure or displeasure which is of the utmost importance.*

The Heavens and the earth belong to Allah and He grants from them what He pleases to His servants. It is all under His control.

Important Lessons

- 1) Being truthful to the responsibility given by Allah will have its benefits in the hereafter. All things will be accounted for and no good deed or evil deed will be overlooked.
- 2) The greatest achievement for a believer is the pleasure of Allah.
- 3) Allah controls all things and has power over everything. To trust in Him is to rely on His all comprehensive power.

Hadith al Qudsi

Allah's Teachings to Nabi Isa

- O Isa. I entrusted you with the poor, and you have shown them mercy. You love them and they love you. They are pleased with you as their leader and guide, and you are pleased with them as your companions and followers. These characteristics - being pleased with a Divinely appointed leader and for him to be pleased with you - are two characteristics such that

whoever meets Me on Judgment day with them has thereby met me with the most pure and the most beloved of deeds.

- O Isa, let your tongue be the same in private and in public, and likewise your heart.
- O Isa, When I give you a gift receive it with humility and I will perfect it for you.

Sources:

Tafsir Namune, Ayt. Nasir Makarim Shirazi

Tafsire Nur, Aghae Muhsin Qara'ati