

Ramadan Lesson 13: The Merits of Good Deeds

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Sheikh Khalid Al-Husainan
(May Allah protect him)

I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the accursed:
O you who believe! Fasting has been prescribed for you as it was for those before you, that you may attain Taqwa. [They are] prescribed number of days."

In this lesson, we will discuss, Allah willing, the topic of paying importance to the merits of good deeds. Allah Most High says in His Noble Book:
"And race to righteous deeds."

Allah Most High is advising us... what? He is advising us to race to perform good deeds.
"And the forerunners, the forerunners -"
Who are they? Some scholars mentioned that those who race to good deeds in this life, they are the ones who will be the forerunners in entering Paradise in the Hereafter.

What is meant by the "merits of deeds" is, for example, the merits of the night prayer, the merits of voluntary fasting, the merits of reciting the Quran, the merits of the sunnah prayers, the merits of proper etiquettes, the merits of charity... the merits of many things!

For this reason, I advise each and every one of you, that he makes a daily program for these deeds. That you should read, I am not saying daily, or weekly, but rather monthly, that you read monthly, for example, one or two hours about the merits of deeds. Any book, for example, one of the best and most comprehensive of these books is Riyadh-us-Saliheen. It contained the merits of deeds, the merits of supplications, the merits of remembering Allah... many merits! For example, the merits of good manners. So you read from this book, for example, from Riyadh-us-Saliheen, or from Saheeh At-Targheeb wat-Tarheeb, for example, or from Saheeh Al-Matjar Ar-Rabih, all these books deal specifically with the topic of the merits of deeds. So you should have a monthly reading, once a month, that you read for two or three hours. How will this reading benefit you? It will benefit you by motivating you to perform good works.

When you read, for example, that the Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) encouraged us to call the Adthan, when he (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said, "The people with the longest necks on the Day of Judgement will be," whom? "Those who called the Adthan."

In another hadeeth, he (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said that Allah Most High forgives the one who calls the Adthan as far as his voice reaches. Whatever hears your voice, whether a rock, a tree or anything else... So you try, for example, every week or every month, to call the Adthan once or twice, so that you can have some share. If you go on a picnic, for example, or you are on the way, if you were to pray on the way, whether alone, in a group, or even with your family, you call the Adthan. So you try that you don't hear, make this a golden rule which you follow, that you do not hear some merit of a good deed, except that you try to apply it in your life. Even if it be once a month, or once every two or three months.

Another example, that you try to perform the funeral prayer. The Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) encouraged us, that the person who prays the funeral prayer will earn a Qirat of

rewards, and the one who follow it till it is buried earns two Qirat, and one Qirat is like Mt. Uhud. Allah will give you, by His mercy, generosity and grace, rewards the size of Mt. Uhud. So you should try to have a share of these rewards, and a program, for every merit from the merits of deeds, so that you earn many merits.

This is not possible except by reading. You should read the books which deal with the merits of deeds, like I said monthly, not daily or weekly, but rather monthly to read the merits of good deeds.

And like I said, the merits of good deeds are many, and we cannot mention them all in this short lesson. However, we are only briefing you about this, that a Muslim tries as much as possible, to pay importance to each merit. For example, for each merit of good deeds, a person tries to train himself for a period of a month. For example, you try to train yourselves to implement the merits of remembering Allah. Or for example the recitation of the Quran, that you set aside, let's say, half an hour, or ten minutes to recite the Quran. Indeed it is blessed, good and a grace. For example, every day you recite one Juz. That would be the entire Quran in a month.

Like this, for every merit from the merits of good deeds, you should make a daily schedule for the deeds which you will perform, and have a share in every merit of good deeds which the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) informed us of.

For example, while this is something many people are lazy in doing, going to the Masjid early. The Prophet (sallallahu alaihi wa sallam) said, "If people knew the good in going early to the Masjid," you try to train yourself to go to the Masjid before the Adthan, even five or a few minutes, of course you will be better than the one who goes to the Masjid after the Adthan. "If people knew the good in going early to the Masjid, and the first row..." so you should try to pray in the first row. Many people are not much interested in this. Subhanallah, there is a benefit my dear brothers. Any person who is keen on praying in the first row, it takes root in his soul and he can not pray in any other row. He has to pray in the first row.

This is all from the merits of good deeds: that you are keen in praying in the first row, going to the Masjid early, helping others, raising orphans, and other things. These are all merits of good deeds. All you have to do, as I suggested, is that you dedicate a monthly reading, for about one or two hours, to read the books dealing with the merits of deeds. We hope that Allah favors us with His generosity, His grace and bounty, to apply all these deeds so that we can obtain great reward from Allah Most High.

This is what I had to say, and I seek Allah's forgiveness for me and you.

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