

Lesson 8 - Surat al Muzzammil (The Wrapped Up)

SURAT AL MUZZAMMIL – VERSE 20

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ تَقُومُ أَدْنَىٰ مِنْ ثُلُثِي اللَّيْلِ وَنِصْفَهُ وَثُلُثَهُ وَطَائِفَةٌ مِنَ الَّذِينَ
مَعَكَ ۗ وَاللَّهُ يُقَدِّرُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ ۗ عَلِمَ أَنْ لَنْ تُحْصُوهُ فَتَابَ عَلَيْكُمْ ۗ فَاقْرَءُوا مَا
تَيَسَّرَ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ ۗ عَلِمَ أَنْ سَيَكُونُ مِنْكُمْ مَرْضَىٰ ۙ وَآخَرُونَ يَضْرِبُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ
يَبْتَغُونَ مِنْ فَضْلِ اللَّهِ ۙ وَآخَرُونَ يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ۗ فَاقْرَءُوا مَا تَيَسَّرَ مِنْهُ ۗ
وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَقْرِضُوا اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا ۗ وَمَا تُقَدِّمُوا لِأَنْفُسِكُمْ
مِنْ خَيْرٍ تَجِدُوهُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ هُوَ خَيْرًا وَأَعْظَمَ أَجْرًا ۗ وَاسْتَغْفِرُوا اللَّهَ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ غَفُورٌ
رَحِيمٌ

Indeed your Lord knows that you stand vigil nearly two thirds of the night – or at [times] a half or a third of it – along with a group of those who are with you. Allah measures the night and day. He knows that you cannot calculate it [exactly], and so He was lenient towards you. So recite as much of the Qur'an as is feasible. He knows that some of you will be sick, while others will travel in the land seeking Allah's grace, and yet others will fight in the way of Allah. So recite as much of it as is feasible, and maintain the prayer and pay the zakat and lend Allah with a good loan. Whatever good you send ahead for your souls you will find it with Allah [in a form] that is better and greater with respect to reward. And plead to Allah for forgiveness; Indeed Allah is all – forgiving, all-merciful.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES



To reflect on

1. What are the purposes of commands?
2. How do I get closer to Allah (swt)?
3. Does Allah (swt) know me more than I know myself?

TAFSIR

Verse 20

This verse is warning Muslims against being arrogant, by doing good deeds. These good deeds are praying nightly prayers, recitation of the Qur'anic verse and helping the poor, going on business trips and doing righteous deeds which should be accompanied by seeking divine forgiving off one's sins.

The beginning of the verse states that calculating such measurements is hard and beyond our abilities, we may stand in prayer, establish canonical prayers and recite Qur'anic verses as much as it is convenient for you – in particular if we are on a journey or sick.

Travelling and Jihad are also mentioned in the verse. Travelling for commerce is worldly and Jihad is for the hereafter. It is narrated that if a merchant remembers Allah (swt) at all times and refrains from fraud, hoarding, selling less than due to measure and selling at an unlawful higher price is like a warrior setting foot in the battle field to kill the enemy and safeguard security.

Reciting the Qur'an is not a religious obligation but is highly recommended, for example in this verse we can see that recitation of the Qur'an is mentioned twice in this surah. It is also important to note that commands from Allah (swt) are harmonious with human capacities and they never entail hardships. For example, the sick are not supposed to fast but help the poor by paying a certain amount of money.

There are four commands mentioned in this verse. These commands are;

1. Maintain the prayer
2. Pay the zakat and lend Allah with a good loan
3. Plead to Allah (swt) for forgiveness
4. Recitation of the Qur'an

This is a perfect plan for self purification that a believer can practice.

The phrase "*and lend Allah with a good loan*" – Allah (swt) urges the believers to expend and make sacrifices in His cause and collect good deeds by doing such noble deeds to attain perfection.

ACTIVITY

Take a plain sheet of paper.

On that paper draw a big tree with 5 big roots and 10 branches of the tree.

Label the roots with the Usul al Deen and the branches with the Furu al Deen.

After that draw some fruits emerging from those branches - Label those fruits with a good action that you think emerged from that Furu al Deen. For e.g. – From the branch of salaah, I can draw an Apple. I will label the Apple as humbleness because Salaah makes us get rid of our arrogance.