

MIFTAAH SEMINAR

PRACTICAL LESSONS FROM THE SEERAH



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SESSION 2

The Family Life of the Prophet SAW

- Because family life is private life, we do not have as much information on it from the Prophet SAW, but we do have some information on it.
- The Prophet SAW was successful in every sphere he operated in. Generally speaking, those who are successful in politics or business are failures in family. It is almost impossible to find a person who is successful in every sphere of life, but the Prophet SAW was.
- The Prophet SAW had a genuine and sincere love for the people in his life
 - Khadijah RA occupied a special place in the heart of the Prophet SAW as she was his first wife.
 - Aisha RA knew how much the Prophet SAW loved Khadijah RA and she said that Khadijah RA was the wife that she was most jealous of.
 - The Prophet SAW said, "Allah did not substitute Khadijah RA with anyone better than her. She believed in me when nobody else did."
 - This shows us one of the most important characteristics of a spouse is to believe in your partner and support them emotionally. Khadijah RA believed in him before he even believed in himself.

- The Prophet SAW went against the norms of his people to show them what it means to be a true gentleman. It was the norm in that society to physically discipline women. But, Aisha RA said that the Prophet SAW never once raised his hand towards any of his wives.
- If Allah willed, He could have made the marriages of the Prophet SAW like a fairytale without any issues, but then he would have not been a role model for us and we would not have been able to see our lives in his life. The fact that the Prophet SAW had some minor disagreements with his wives sometimes demonstrates that marriages will have their ups and downs.
 - If your marriage gives you the happiest moments and the most painful ones, then that is normal.
 - Marriage is tough and it is about sacrifice. It is not just about the honeymoon phase.
 - If the Prophet SAW can argue with his wives and still have the best marriage, then that shows that it is normal.
 - Umar RA was not accustomed to his wife speaking back to him. One day, they had a disagreement and his wife spoke back to him. Umar RA said, "How dare you speak back to me?" His wife said, "Why should I not speak back to you when your daughter (Hafsa) speaks back to someone better than you (i.e. the Prophet SAW)?" Umar was shocked and rushed to Hafsa's house to ask if it was true and she said yes.
 - This teaches us the gentlemanly nature of the Prophet SAW.
 - Not every petty argument needs to be responded to.

- Abu Bakr RA visited Aisha RA once and he heard her speaking loudly to the Prophet SAW. Abu Bakr went into the living room and said, "Are you daring to raise your voice over the voice of the Prophet SAW?" Abu Bakr was looking at him as the Prophet of Allah, but Aisha was looking at him as her husband. Abu Bakr raised his hand towards his daughter and the Prophet SAW jumped forward and stood in front of Abu Bakr RA. Abu Bakr lowered his hand in embarrassment and left. The Prophet SAW looked at Aisha RA and said, "Didn't you see how I defended you from that man?"
 - Diffuse the tension
 - Not every disagreement has to be made bigger
 - Many arguments are exacerbated because of egos and to win the argument.
- The Prophet SAW would spend quality time with his wives
 - If anyone could claim that they are busy, it would be the Prophet SAW. He was in charge of an entire empire, but he would still spend time with his wives.
 - Every day, after Fajr and Asr salah, he would spend time with them and check in on them.
 - The Prophet SAW would occasionally take his wives on trips
 - He would announce to the army to leave him and his wife to spend time together on the way back from an expedition.
 - The Prophet SAW once raced in the sand with Aisha RA.
 - To preserve family is to preserve society

- The Prophet SAW had access to a lot of wealth in Medina, but he chose to live a simple life. Naturally, his wives requested a higher standard of living. This is not only halal, but it would be the default for everybody else. As the husband's income rises, so too should the family expenditure and lifestyle. But, the Prophet SAW is not like any of us and he could not live the lifestyle of a king. He has to live in the simplest of manners to demonstrate his sincerity and be somebody who is accessible to everyone else. So, when his wives would ask for more money, he would tell them no. This continued until at one point, he had to withdraw from them all and he slept in the masjid for an entire month. Allah revealed verses regarding this situation and gave them an ultimatum. They had to choose if they wanted the Prophet SAW and the akhirah or the money. All of his wives chose to be with the Prophet SAW immediately.
 - Sometimes, the marital dispute becomes so intense that you may have to sleep in different areas. But, the husband must always be the one who is sleeping somewhere else if that does happen. You are never allowed to kick a woman out of her safety and household.
 - If the situation gets so intense, it is ok for the husband to leave so that he can cool down and then come back to discuss later on.
 - Love is priceless and it is worth more than any money.
 - More important than money in a marriage is love.
- The Prophet SAW demonstrated his love in various ways
 - Book recommendations related to this: "Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus," and "The Five Languages of Love."
 - The Prophet SAW expressed his love in all of the love languages.

- While Aisha RA was in her menses, the Prophet SAW would go out of his way and do small acts of kindness. He would drink from the same place that she was drinking from in her cup. He would put his head on her lap and Aisha would comb his hair. He would take some food from her plate and eat it.
 - During this period of time, a woman may feel neglected and unloved because her husband knows that there can be no intimacy. But, the Prophet SAW went out of his way to demonstrate that it is not only about being physical and that there is companionship and romance beyond that.
- The Prophet SAW was also a father-in-law
 - Ali RA and Fatima RA once had an argument. The Prophet SAW went to check on them and help resolve it. He went to Fatima's house and asked where Ali was. She told him that he left the house yesterday and does not know where he is. So, the Prophet SAW sent people to look for him and they found him sleeping in the masjid. The floor of the masjid was sand, so his whole body was covered in sand. The Prophet SAW smiled and helped him up and jokingly said, "Stand up of father of the dust (يَا أَبَ التُّرَابِ)." The Prophet SAW sent him back home.
 - Having an argument does not mean that you should not be married.
 - The Prophet SAW knew there was an issue between the two of them, but he did not get involved in the minutia. He just showed them both love and let them figure it out.
 - In-laws do not need to micromanage the marriages of their children.
 - If a line is crossed, then the family should get involved. But, the general rule is that you show your presence as the elderly loving figure and that is all.
- The Prophet SAW had 7 children and 7 grandchildren

- He had 6 children from Khadijah and 1 from Maria.
- His grandchildren from Fatima and Ali were 4:
 - Hasan
 - Husayn
 - Zaynab
 - Umm Kulthum
- From Uthman ibn Affan and Ruqayya, he had 1:
 - Abdullah ibn Uthman ibn Affan
 - He lived to the age of 8 or 9 and passed away from an animal bite.
- From Zaynab and Abu al-A'as, he had 2:
 - Umamah
 - She was the eldest granddaughter of the Prophet SAW.
 - The Prophet SAW would often pray with Umamah in his hand as a baby. When he would go into sajdah, he would put her on the floor and pick her up when he stood back up.
 - Scholars derive from this that it is permissible for a person to hold a child in salah even if it is not necessary.
 - Scholars also derive that it is permissible to carry the child in salah whether the baby has najis on them or not.
 - Ali
- The Prophet SAW was once in sajdah for a long time and it was because Hasan RA was on his back and he was letting him stay there out of love for him.

- Hasan RA was gifted a new thobe and because he was little, it went beyond his toes. While the Prophet SAW was giving the khutbah, he walked into the masjid, tripped and fell, and started to cry. The Prophet SAW stopped the khutbah, went through the crowd, picked up Hasan, and continued the Khutbah with Hasan in his hand.
- The Quran and the Sunnah/Seerah should be studied continuously in every portion of your life. They will give you what you need to know and make your heart soft.
- If you are not going to become a 'alim, do not remain a jahil.
 - It is not obligatory to be a 'alim, but you should not be ignorant. Every day, have a little connection with the Quran and the Seerah.

