

FRIDAY SERMON

21 June 2013

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

After reciting the *Tashahhud*, the *Ta'uz* and the first chapter *Al Fatiha* of the Holy Quran Imam Zafrullah Domun said:

Allah has sent us Hazrat Masih Maood (as) so that we might know what is the essence of Islam that we should practice in our everyday life. Hence all of us should cherish his teachings and try our best to put them into practice. People tend to forget and people lull themselves into thinking that they know and there is no more to learn. In order not to fall into apathy, every week in the Friday sermon, the preacher gives the congregation something to think about and to practice so that all, young and old, women and men should always be reminded of the true teachings of Islam. Consequently one should examine one's behaviour and correct it where it needs correction. He who in spite of being reminded persists in his or her evil ways is indeed an unlucky one because reminding has not profited him whereas the Holy Quran says: "keep on reminding; definitely reminding is profitable to the believers". Hence to be an evergreen Muslim there is a need for each one of us to keep in our heart the noble teachings of Islam that we have inherited. Besides making it a lifetime duty to continuously read and comprehend the Holy Quran, one can also profit by reflecting upon what the Khatib says in every Jummah Sermon.

Today I will read and briefly comment on some more extracts from Hazrat Masih Maood (as) writings and discourses. He says:

"Today my Community, too, has to face the same difficulties that confronted the Muslims in the time of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sas). Thus, the most familiar and the first of all the problems a person has to deal with when he becomes a member of my community is that, generally speaking, his friends, relations and his fraternity distance themselves from him even to the point that his mother and his father and his brothers become inimical to him. They refuse to respond to his greeting of "Peace be onto you," and do not wish to read his funeral prayer (*janazah*). This kind of difficulty is very common...."

So we see that we are in good company. Because we have accepted and acted upon what Allah has revealed to us, we, members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen have been reviled and treated in the same way that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has described above. But those who have inflicted this kind of treatment are not dumb Muslims who are not aware of their religion. They are not those Muslims who pray occasionally or who do not spend in the cause of Allah. These are people who have been schooled by Hazrat Masih Maood (as). They were taught the true teachings of Islam but they preferred to forget it and follow their baser self and hurt others' feelings. It is when those who were supposed to be the preservers of the teachings began to drift away and are like dry grass that Allah sends heavenly water from Himself to vivify everyone. Those who are somewhat alive will get an invigorating life. But those who are completely lifeless will not be revived by the heavenly water. It will have no effect upon them. This is what has been going on in the world and this will

continue to be so. Few are guided and many perish. Hazrat Masih continues:

“I am fully aware that there are many weak-spirited people to whom such a problem causes great perturbation. However, they must bear in mind that this sort of problem is inevitable. You are not superior to the prophets and the messengers of Allah, Most High, and so this kind of trial and difficulty must arise so that your faith in Allah, Most High, may become strengthened and that you may be afforded the opportunity to make a pure transformation in yourselves. You should make constant supplication (*du‘a*) when this happens and you should imitate the example of the prophets and the messengers and choose the path of patience and perseverance. In fact, no damage at all has been done to you, for those friends who desert you because you have accepted the truth are not really true friends otherwise they should have stayed with you. Therefore, you should not quarrel nor do harm to those who abandon you and separate themselves from you just because you have chosen to become members of God’s anointed community. Instead, you must secretly make supplication to Allah, Most High, to bless them also with the same insight and knowledge which He has bestowed on you out of His abundant grace.”

It is our faith that Allah is Wise and All knowing and whatever He does is for our own good. He tries us by putting us in such situations where people mistreat us and they think that they are committing good deeds which will meet the pleasure of Allah. If we are with what we objectively consider to be truth we should not mind at all the accusations that others might level at us. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) advises us to have recourse to prayer and to even pray for those who want to harm us. One should use this recipe provided by Hazrat Masih Maood (as) and experience what kind of peace Allah will descend on one's heart as a result of sincerely offered supplications. Now let us hear what Hazrat Masih expected from members of his community:

“Make firm the purity of your example and the nobility of your conduct so as to prove to them that you have chosen a beautiful way of life. Pay heed to this fact. I am appointed by Allah, Most High, in order to give you continuous guidance so that you should keep away from all places where quarrels and mischief may erupt and remain calm and patient even in the face of abuses. You should return evil with good and if an opponent is hunting for an opportunity to do evil, you should move away from that environment whilst replying with gentle words. Many a time it may happen that a person may display vehement opposition to you and in doing so he may become so heated as to cause a great commotion which may influence the onlookers to become so inflamed themselves as to become ready to do violence. However, when they receive gentle words in return and curses are not answered by curses, then they themselves will become ashamed and evince sorrow and penitence for their ill-tempered outbursts.

I truly urge you not to abandon the virtue of patience (*sabr*). I assure you that patience is a weapon that can bring greater results than those won by the gun. It is patience that wins over hearts. You must certainly remember that it hurts me very deeply when I hear that someone from this community has fought with someone else. Thus, I am never happy and Allah, Most High, Himself does not wish that this community which is chosen to stand as an example of righteousness should choose a path other than that of rectitude. [*Malfuzaat*, vol. 7, pp. 203-208]

Speaking about the struggle with one's own self to stop sinning Hazrat Masih Maood(as), as a true guide who understands human nature in its complexity advises us:

“A person should never give up hope. The onslaught of sins is a very severe thing and reform seems difficult, but one should not despair. Some people say that we are sinners and we are overwhelmed by the demands of the self, so how is it possible for us to become righteous. They should consider that a believer is never without hope. He who despairs and thinks that there is no hope is none other than Satan himself. A believer should never be a coward. No matter how much a person is overwhelmed by his sins, God has placed such ability in man that he eventually does overcome sin. God has placed in man a power that burns away sin and this power is there in man's nature.

You will note that no matter how much water is heated – it can be heated so much that it burns whatever it touches – but even then, if this water is poured over fire, it will quell the fire. This is because God has placed this characteristic in water that if it is poured over fire, the fire is extinguished. Likewise, no matter how much a person is immersed in sins, no matter how much he is burning in bad deeds, even then he has the capacity to put out the fire of sins. However, if this ability had not been given to man, he could not then have been held accountable for himself. What is more, in that case even the appearance of Prophets and Messengers would have been unnecessary. The reality is that the nature of man is pure and provision has been made for its requirements. If there is physical hunger and thirst, there is also food and water. A human being needs air to breathe, so there is air. In short, if all that is required for the physical body is provided for, why should there not be provided the requirements of the soul? God, Who is ever Merciful and ever Forgiving, and Who covers up the faults of His servants, has provided all the necessary provisions for the preservation of the soul. If a human being were to search for spiritual water, he will find it; if he searches for spiritual bread, it would be given to him. Just as there is a law operating in the physical world, so there is a law relating to the spiritual world, but the condition is that one must seek. He who seeks shall find. He who strives to find God shall certainly meet the pleasure of God. [*Malfuzaat*, vol. 10, pp. 93-95]”

The preceding extract is relevant to all those who want to get rid of their sins whatever they are. They should learn to keep a watch on themselves and keep striving despite their many lapses. If one is sincere and one seeks the help of Allah in order to get rid of bad habits, one will see that Allah will come to his or her help. There are thousands of people who have experienced this in their own life. Speaking about how we should behave once we become a member of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Hazrat Masih Maood (as) says:

“Having taken the Oath of Allegiance, a person should not be content with the belief that this movement is based on the truth and that such a belief would bring blessings. The present time is one of tribulation and sinfulness is spreading all around. God is not pleased with mere belief unless it is accompanied by good deeds. Now that you have entered the fold of this Community, you should try to be good and righteous. You should avoid all ills and should spend your time in prayer – supplicate at the feet of God day and night. The time of tribulation is also the time of God’s anger and at such a time prayer, supplication, giving of alms and repentance should be the norm, and your speech should be kind and gentle. Prayers should also be offered during *salah* as the saying goes, “He who pleads, does not die.” Mere belief does not serve man – the belief of a person who puts his belief to one side cannot benefit him. Subsequently, it is meaningless to complain that taking the pledge of Initiation has been of no benefit! God is not pleased with mere words.

In the Holy Qur’an, God has set righteous actions side by side with belief. Righteous deeds are deeds that do not contain the slightest ill within them. However, remember that the good deeds of a human being are attacked by “thieves”. What are these ‘thieves’? These include actions that are carried out for show as well as the feeling of pride at one’s good actions. There are also numerous other ill deeds and sins that a person often commits. All such behaviour falsify the good deeds. The righteous deed is that which contains no element of cruelty, ostentation, pride or the usurping of the rights of others. Just as good deeds safeguard one in the next world, so is he saved in this world through good deeds. In a household, if there is even one person who performs righteous deeds, the whole household is safeguarded. It should, therefore, be well understood that mere belief is of no avail until one steadfastly performs righteous deeds. When a physician writes a prescription, his intention is that the patient should follow that prescription and take the prescribed medicine. Should the patient not make use of the medicine and put the prescription aside, what benefit can possibly accrue to him! [*Malfuzaat*, vol. 4, pp. 274-275]”

All these advices of Hazrat Masih Maood^{as} are for all those who claim to be members of his Jamaat whether he is a caliph, an amir or a member having no official function. These words are to be read and reflected upon and deeds should be examined to see if they conform to them or not. One cannot say that one is the representative of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) and act contrary to his teachings. May Allah safeguard us from such behaviour because Allah does not like it at all.