

~ A Series of Advices from Friday Sermons ~

JEALOUSY AND ENVY

By: Shaykh Saalih bin Fawzan al-Fawzan

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Taken from a Friday Sermon

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Cover Design: Al-Binaa Publishing by Farid

www.albinaapublishing.com

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

All praises belongs to Allaah the Possessor of bounty in which He gives to whom He pleases and He is the All Mighty the All Wise. I bear witness that none has the right to be worship except Allaah without any partners and He is one in His Lordship, in His being worshipped alone and in His Names and Qualities; Allaah the Blessed the Owner of the great throne. I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger the possessor of generous manners and a great station may the salat and salaam be upon him, his family and all of his companions; to proceed:

O' people, there is a vilified trait that the Prophet ﷺ warned his ummah from it, and forbade from it, and it is jealousy, he said:

"The disease of the nations who came before you has started to spread among you: envy and hatred "

He also said ﷺ *"Do not be envious of one another; do not hate one another; do not artificially raise prices against one another; do not turn one's back on each other; and do not undercut one another in business transactions. And be, [O] servants of Allah, brethren. A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim. He does not belittle him. He does not forsake him. He does not betray him. And he does not show contempt for him. It is sufficient enough of evil for a person to despise his Muslim brother Every Muslims blood, wealth and honor is sacred"*

Fear Allah, O servants of Allaah for jealousy is one of the most destructive characteristic that has spread in this ummah and consequently it has with terrible effects.

The meaning of jealousy is the hoping in the removal of the blessing from the one who is envied. When he sees his brother blessed with what Allaah has given him, then he hopes that this blessing disappears from him for no other reason except because of his hatred and when he hated him (he therefore) envied him. Jealousy is an ancient disease, and the first to envy was Satan, (May Allaah's curse be upon him) when he envied our father Adam for the virtues that Allah gave him. He created Adam by His hands, taught him the names of everything, made the Angels prostrate to him and let him live in His Paradise. Therefore, Ibliss became angry and refused to prostrate to Adam along with the Angels. Allaah says;

فَسَجَدَ الْمَلَائِكَةُ كُلُّهُمْ أَجْمَعُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾

"Then the Angels all of them prostrated together" (15:30)

So when their Lord said to them (ordered them) to prostrate to Adam; they all did so except Iblis as Allaah mentioned;

إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ لَمْ يَكُنْ مِنَ السَّاجِدِينَ ﴿١١﴾

"Except Iblis he refused to be from those who bow down" (7:11) And Allaah says;

...إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ أَبَىٰ وَاسْتَكْبَرَ وَكَانَ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٣٤﴾

"He refused and became arrogant and was from the disbelievers" (2:34)

All this was because he became jealous of what Allaah gave him of these virtues so he refused to prostrate to him; arrogantly claiming that he is better than Adam. He claimed that he was better because he was created from fire while Adam was created from clay, and his assumption was that fire is far better than clay and this is a false reasoning (he had). Certainly clay is better than fire because it brings about the harvest of good plants, vegetables, fruits and many other goods things are reaped from it. In contrary to this the fire only destroys, (and) does not produce anything; it only destroys and ruins. Thus, his assumption felled and what he sought was null and void. When he became arrogant regarding Adam and envied him, Allaah expelled him and cursed him.

He was from amongst the first along with the Angels, worshipping Allaah in the heavens, but when he became jealous of Adam Allaah expelled him, cursed him and sent him down to the earth. He became a leader for the evil and wicked and a caller to every evil and (Allaah) made him from the people of the fire and a caller to it for eternity, all because of jealousy. If only he did not envy Adam and he had prostrated with the Angels who were not envious of him, he would have remained there with honor and position. However, when he began to be jealous and turned away from (the command) of Allaah, then he was expelled, cursed and made distant from Allaah and we seek refuge in Allaah from that. These are the effects of jealousy, Allah says;

﴿٣٧﴾ وَأَتْلُ عَلَيْهِمْ نَبَأَ ابْنَيْ آدَمَ بِالْحَقِّ إِذْ قَرَّبَا قُرْبَانًا فَتُقُبِّلَ مِنْ أَحَدِهِمَا وَلَمْ يُنْقَبَلْ مِنَ الْآخَرِ قَالَ لَأَقْتُلَنَّكَ قَالَ إِنَّمَا يَتَقَبَّلُ اللَّهُ مِنَ الْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٣٧﴾

"And recite to them the story of Adam's two sons, in truth,(Cain and Abel the sons of Adam) when they both offered a sacrifice [to Allaah], and it was accepted from one of them but was not accepted from the other..." (5:27)

So the one who Allaah accepts from is the one who has taqwa¹ and He does not accept from the one who does not have taqwa, as Allaah says;

إِنَّمَا يَتَقَبَّلُ اللَّهُ مِنَ الْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿٢٧﴾

“Allaah only accepts from those who have taqwa”(5:27)

So he envied his brother and he said (as Allaah mentions)

لَأَقْتُلَنَّكَ ۗ ﴿٢٧﴾

Said [the latter], “I will surely kill you.”(5:27)

So he threatened his brother that he would kill him and his brother (Abel) said to him, as Allaah mentioned;

لَئِن بَسَطْتَ إِلَيَّ يَدَكَ لِتَقْتُلَنِي مَا أَنَا بِبَاسِطٍ يَدِيَ إِلَيْكَ لِأَقْتُلَنَّكَ ۗ إِنِّي
أَخَافُ اللَّهَ ۗ ﴿٢٨﴾

“If you should raise your hand against me to kill me - I shall not raise my hand against you to kill you. Indeed, I fear Allaah...”(5:28)

He feared Allaah and he was afraid of killing his brother. This jealous oppressive wrong doer saw nothing else except the killing of his brother (as Allaah says)

فَطَوَّعَتْ لَهُ نَفْسُهُ قَتْلَ أَخِيهِ فَقَتَلَهُ ۗ فَأَصْبَحَ مِنَ
الْخَاسِرِينَ ﴿٣٠﴾

“And his soul permitted to him the murder of his brother, so he killed him and became among the losers.”(5:30)

Firstly, he cut the ties of relation (between him and his brother)

Secondly, he envied his brother for what Allaah specified for him from the acceptance of his sacrifice. Allaah says;

فَقَتَلَهُ ۗ فَأَصْبَحَ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ ﴿٣٠﴾

“...so he killed him and became among the losers.”(5:30)

¹ Translator’s note: Taqwa is a comprehensive term including performing those actions Allaah has ordered and refraining from those actions which He has prohibited.

(The killer obtained) a lost; there is no restoring or repairing ever! And all this was because of envy and Allaah's refuge is sought.

(Also) when Allaah sent to the Jews their Prophet Muhammad ﷺ the seal and best of the prophets and messengers and they saw that he was from lineage of Ismaeel; they envied him, because they wanted that the prophethood be amongst the children of Israel so they turned away from Allaah and they prevented the virtue of Allaah of being given to whom He pleases. So they envied Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and they disbelieved in him while they knew he was the messenger of Allaah

As Allaah says;

يَعْرِفُونَهُ كَمَا يَعْرِفُونَ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ... (١٤٦)

“They knew (and recognized) him as they knew their own sons” (2:146)

So when they found his qualities in the torah and the injeel they knew him, and they did not deny his message out of ignorance, but out of jealousy, which carried them to disbelieve. Look at how jealousy leads to the taking of life and leads to disbelief which is greater, and we seek refuge with Allaah from that. It also leads to the curse of Allaah like what happened to Ibliss (Shaytaan).

Be warned O servants of Allaah for the Messenger of Allaah peace be upon him warned us regarding this, as he said:

"Do not be envious"

This is a prohibition from the Messenger ﷺ regarding jealousy that occurs between us. If one sees his brother with a blessing from Allaah, then he should not envy him for what he has, but he should only ask Allaah to provide for him from His bounty. Allah says:

وَلَا تَتَمَنَّوْا مَا فَضَّلَ اللَّهُ بِهِ بَعْضَكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ لِلرِّجَالِ نَصِيبٌ
مِّمَّا كَسَبُوا وَلِلنِّسَاءِ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا كَسَبْنَ وَسَأَلُوا اللَّهَ مِنْ
فَضْلِهِ .. (٣٢)

“And wish not for the things in which Allâh has made some of you to excel others. For men there is reward for what they have earned, (and likewise) for women there is reward for what they have earned, and ask Allaah of His Bounty” (4:32)

Ask the One who gave your brother this blessing that he gives you (also). For Allaah is the Most Kind and Generous, if you ask him He will give you. But to become envious of your brother because of the blessing that Allaah has given him, then in this case you would be turning away from Allaah and cutting off the connection of ties or relations in faith between yourself and your brother.

So the cure for envy is to ask Allaah for His bounty as Allaah is Expansive and All Knowing and also the cure for envy is that you believe in al-qadaa (when Allaah decrees a thing takes place when it does) and al-Qadr (what Allaah has written to take place and has not occurred yet) . So when your brother obtains something it is only because Allaah made it come about and it was written for him. Do not reject and turn away from Allaah and what He has decreed for others. Do not say that so and so is not deserving of this thing, like we hear from some of the people. They say "by Allaah so and so does not deserve this, why so and so." Or if a calamity befalls someone they say so and so is good, he doesn't deserve this punishment! It is as if this one has rejected and turned away from Allaah (with this speech).

So it is an obligation that the Muslim is pleased with what Allaah has decreed for others and what He has written. Another cure for envy is that you supplicate for your brother with blessings (in what he has), replacing that hope of the disappearance of his blessing with hoping it remains (with him) and that Allaah places blessing it that thing and this will not harm you at all, rather it will benefit you with Allaah. Also from that which envy will be cured is that you seek the provisions (for yourself) and that you exert (efforts in relation to) the means. As far as you sitting, being incapable, lazy while envying those who obtain and those who seek provisions and you are jealous of what Allaah has given them; then you are reprimanded for this. You are the one who fell short (in this regard), you are the one you abandoned the means and you are the one who fell idle, so it is upon you to rebuke your own self and exchange and replace that envy that you have for what Allaah has given people from His bounty.

Therefore envy, O servants of Allaah, is that which leads to disbelief as it led Ibliss. It also leads to murder as it led Cain to killing his brother. Certainly Allaah narrated these stories to us so that we may get lessons from them and be warned. So we must be aware of this envy! It leads to turning away and rejecting Allaah and what He has decreed and leading us (to believe) that Allaah is not the All Wise, that He is not the All Aware, that He is not the All Knowledgeable and that He only gives to those not deserving of being given to or He punishes those not deserving of being punished and this is disbelief in what Allaah has brought about and decreed 'and there is no power or might except with Allaah'.

Jealousy is an unhealthy sickness, so seek refuge in Allaah from envy as mention in the Hadeeth narrated by Ahmad and at-Tirmidhi

"Certainly envy diminishes good deeds like fire diminishes firewood" so beware of this

Be cautious of this, O servants of Allaah, that you will destroy your good deeds and righteous actions because of envy. Seek Allaah's refuge from envy and ask Allaah for his bounty, love good for your brothers and supplicate for them with blessings. Allaah is Expansive and All Knowing and within His Hands is the bounty. (Allaah says)

يُؤْتِيهِ مَن يَشَاءُ... ﴿٧٣﴾

"He gives it to whom he wills" (3:73)

So do not reject and turn away from Allaah and nullify your deeds while you realize it not as Allaah says;

﴿٢﴾ أَنْ تَحْبَطَ أَعْمَالُكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَشْعُرُونَ

“And you nullified your actions while you perceived not” (49:2)

It is an obligation on the Muslim that he loves good for his brother as he does for himself and he does not hate or dislike the good his brother has, rather he loves that for him as the Prophet ﷺ said:

"None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself"

Consider your brother with the same standing of yourself. Just as you love good for yourself love good for your brother. Do not dislike good for your brother as you dislike evil for yourself but dislike evil for your brother as if you and him are one soul. All of the believers are like one body. How can you show envy for your brother over what Allaah has given him and bestowed upon him?!

Also from the poisons of jealousy is that the envious one will always be in agony, misery and in displeasure. He will live a life of unhappiness. So when he sees the servants of Allaah receiving blessings he envies them and he remains (this way) and his hearts burns over what they have and what his Lord (has given them). So he lives in misery when he sees the blessings descend upon the servants of Allaah. How is it that one hinders from the bounty of Allaah? As Allaah says;

﴿٢﴾ .. مِنْ رَحْمَةٍ فَلَا مُمْسِكَ لَهَا وَمَا يُمْسِكُ فَلَا مُرْسِلَ لَهُ ..

“Whatever of mercy (i.e. of good), Allâh may grant to mankind, none can withhold it; and whatever He may withhold, none can grant it thereafter” (35:2)

No one may prevent what Allaah has ordained and decreed, no one can prevent sustenance or prevent affliction (coming to someone) this is only in the Hands of Allaah the Most High. The envious person always lives in a troubled state because the blessings of Allaah continue to come to His servants and he does not want anything to come to them. He does not want the people to be provided for, he does not want them to learn, he does not want them to win the Bounty of Allaah. This person only wants all of the world for himself and nothing for anyone else. He sighs, suffers and remains in a severe sickness; all because of jealousy. Surely jealousy is like fire, it ignites what is in his heart,(so) leave the envious one for your abandonment kills him. Do you not see the fire eats other part of (itself) even if you don't see it? The envious one only harms himself, so seek refuge with Allaah from envy.

Purify your manners from envy and hope for your brothers to have bounties and blessings after you hope that for yourselves. This is a sign of faith. The believer loves for his brother what he loves for himself and this is the believer. As the Prophet ﷺ said:

"None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself"

Nothing prevented the Jews from faith, and led them to disbelief, and embarking upon the fire and being upon Allaah's Anger except jealousy. Allaah says;

وَدَّ كَثِيرٌ مِّنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ لَوْ يَرُدُّونَكُمْ مِّنْ بَعْدِ
إِيمَانِكُمْ كُفَّارًا.. ﴿١٠٩﴾

"Many of the People of the Scripture wish they could turn you back to disbelief after you have believed..." (2:109)

And what was the reason? (Allaah continues and says)

حَسَدًا مِّنْ عِنْدِ أَنْفُسِهِمْ مِّنْ بَعْدِ مَا بَيَّنَّ لَهُمُ الْحَقُّ.. ﴿١٠٩﴾

"... out of envy from themselves [even] after the truth has become clear to them" (2:109)

So that which carried them upon this was jealousy, and refuge is sought with Allaah - They were deserving of the anger of Allaah and His curse and they lived in disbelief until the Day of Judgment - and we ask Allaah for well being - except the one who repents from them and returns to Allaah.

Fear Allaah, O servants of Allaah, seek refuge with Allaah from jealousy and purify your manners from envy and remember Allaah regarding what you see from the blessings. Ask Allaah to increase your brothers in good and seek for yourselves similar to that which Allaah has given your brothers. As for the one who sees his brother with blessing and he seeks it from Allaah and he hopes that Allaah gives him similar; this is not jealousy. This is a permissible envy. The Prophet ﷺ said:

"There is no envy except in two" (things):

Meaning there is no permissible envy except in two cases:

A person whom Allaah has given knowledge and he teaches it to the people and spreads it and a person whom Allaah has given wealth and he spends it in the path of Allaah. So he who hopes similar to his brother, that Allaah provides him with knowledge and he works by it and that he provides for him wealth that he will spend from it, so with his good intention; the Prophet ﷺ said:

"They are equal in reward"

The first, with his deed and the other with his intention.

Always remember this O servants of Allaah (and as He says)

وَسْأَلُوا اللَّهَ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا ﴿٣٢﴾

“And ask Allaah for His bounty, certainly He has knowledge of all things”(4:32) and He says:

وَلَا تَتَمَنَّوْا مَا فَضَّلَ اللَّهُ بِهِ بَعْضَكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ ۗ لِلرِّجَالِ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا كَسَبُوا وَلِلنِّسَاءِ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا كَسَبْنَ ۗ وَسْأَلُوا اللَّهَ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا ﴿٣٢﴾

“And wish not for the things in which Allâh has made some of you to excel others. For men there is reward for what they have earned, (and likewise) for women there is reward for what they have earned, and ask Allâh of His Bounty. Surely, Allâh is Ever All-Knower of everything.”(4:32)

May Allaah bless me and you regarding the Great Quran and benefit us with what is in it from clarity and the Wise Reminder, I ask Allaah to forgive me and all of the Muslims from every sin, so seek His forgiveness surely he is often Forgiving Most Merciful.

Second part

All praises belongs to Allaah upon His Virtue and Perfection, and I bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah alone with any partners while magnifying His Affair. I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and messenger. May the Salaat and Salaam be upon his family, companions and his brothers, to proceed:

O people, fear Allaah the Most High. From the harms of jealousy is that it can be between individuals, between groups, between two countries, between two tribes. Because of this reason they are deprived from (charitable) projects² which the country builds for their (own) benefit. When they become jealous (of others) they do not attain anything from these charitable projects for the country, groups and individuals. How much has jealousy damaged charitable project that were in progress?! If they would have come together, sought it and desired it, then it would have benefitted them all, but when they envied (one another) it prevented them all and harm fell upon all of them.

So it is upon the Muslim to abandon this evil quality and to abandon the jealousy that is between them whether it is between individuals, groups, two countries or tribes. All of you are brothers, all of you are from the children of Adam, all of you are Muslims, all of you are believers, so why be envious?! It is only shaytaan that kindled the trial between you.

² These are charitable entities established by the government of a country that helps the citizens with different issues.

So fear Allaah O servants of Allaah and know that the best speech is the Book of Allaah and the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad ﷺ and the most evil of all affairs are newly invented and every innovation is a misguidance. Upon you is to hold firm to the jamaa'ah³, because the Hand of Allaah is over the jamaa'ah and however deviates does so towards the fire. Especially during the times of trials, upon you is holding firm to the jamaa'ah; the jamaa'ah of the Muslims and the leader of the Muslims. When the Prophet ﷺ said informing Hudhayfah ibn al-Yamaan:

"there will be callers upon the doors of Jahannam (the fire) and whoever obeys them they will throw them in it.." He (Hudhayfah) said- "what do you order me with O messenger of Allaah if that (time) reaches me?" The Prophet ﷺ said:

"stick to the jamaa'ah of the Muslims and their Imaam"

He ordered him with that and this is for the one who is protected from the trials and from the evil of the callers to the fire and the callers of misguidance and how many are there today! So fear Allaah and be cautious of the callers of misguidance and from the callers of trials. Do not listen to them because they ignite tribulation between the Muslims by means of the media, writings and internet and by way of many different means. By means of spokeswomen (and the likes) they agitate trials between people until a party revolt against another, until citizens revolt against the ruler. Then the ruler becomes angry with the citizens until they are killed and the land becomes ruined and the people become homeless. Lives are taking because of these callers to the doors of the fire. So beware of this and hold to the body of the Muslims and their leader.

﴿ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَايَ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ
وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ
لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴾

"Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded." (16:90)

So remember Allaah and He will remember you and thank Him for His blessings and He will increase you, certainly the remembrance of Allaah is the greatest (of affairs) certainly Allaah knows what we put forth.

³ Translator's note: الجماعة Means the body of the Muslims as a whole. It also refers to the group upon the truth even if they are small in number or an individual. The companion Abdullaah ibn Masud said: "the jamaa'ah is that which is in compliance with the truth even if you are alone"

We ask Allaah that He makes this a benefit

Source:

Shaykh Saalih ibn Fawzaan al-Fawzaan

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