

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ قُلْ أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْكَافِرِينَ وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ: لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّى أَكُونَ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ وَالِدِهِ وَوَلَدِهِ وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

Respected Believers!

This week, on the night connecting Sunday to Monday, we will be observing the Mawleed (the Night of the Prophet's Birth). On the occasion of this blessed night, the subject of today's khutbah will be the importance of knowing, loving, and obeying the Prophet Muhammad Mustafa ﷺ, who was sent as a mercy to all worlds, and of holding fast to his noble Sunnah.

The Exalted Lord, the Almighty, sent the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ as a mercy to all of humanity. Indeed, our Lord, the Almighty, states in the Noble Qur'an: **"And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds."** (Al-Anbiya, 21:107)

With his coming, disbelief was illuminated, ignorance was transformed into knowledge, justice replaced oppression, and mercy and brotherhood prevailed over hatred and enmity. He is not only the prophet of his own era but the prophet, leader, and master of all people until the Day of Judgment. The path he showed is the only path to happiness in this world and the Hereafter.

Dear Believers!

Everyone who claims to love Allah the Almighty has only one measure before them: to follow the Messenger of Allah ﷺ. Our Lord says: **"Say, [O Muhammad], 'If you should love Allah, then follow me, [so] Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.' Say, 'Obey Allah and the Messenger.' But if they turn away – then indeed, Allah does not like the disbelievers."** (Aal-Imran, 3:31-32)

Respected ones! Love is not merely a word spoken by the tongue. True love requires following in the footsteps of the beloved, adopting their character, and being adorned with their morals.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: **"None of you truly believes until I am more beloved to him than his father, his child, and all of mankind."** (Bukhari)

Respected Brothers and Sisters!

A person cannot truly love someone they do not know. Therefore, learning about the life of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ is a great duty for every Muslim. As we learn of his patience, mercy, humility, generosity, forgiveness, and

the difficulties he endured for the sake of his Ummah, the love in our hearts will increase.

Today, many people know the lives of artists, athletes, and world-famous celebrities in the finest detail, yet they do not sufficiently know the life of our Master ﷺ, whom Allah the Almighty has called **"My Beloved."** Yet our true leader and example is Muhammad Mustafa ﷺ, of whom our Lord says in the Noble Qur'an: "There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often" (Al-Ahzab, 33:21)

Dear Muslims!

Love for the Prophet is not a love to be remembered only on Mawleed. Loving him means learning his Sunnah, living by it, teaching it to our children, and taking him as an example in every aspect of our lives.

Mawleed is not a night for extravagance and showing off, but a night for better knowing the Messenger of Allah ﷺ, increasing salawat (blessings upon him), and renewing our commitment to the Qur'an and the noble Sunnah.

The remedy for many of the difficulties we face today as an Ummah lies in turning back to the Noble Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Our unity, peace, and salvation are only in this path.

I conclude my khutbah with the following glad-tiding-bearing hadith of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ: **"A person is with those whom they love."** (Bukhari)

