

Lesson 4

Sincerity (1)

Objectives

- ✓ Explain the concept of sincerity.
- ✓ Explain the virtues of sincerity.
- ✓ Infer indicators of sincerity.

There are two conditions for the acceptability of deeds: the deed must be good and the intention must be good. Allah, glory be to Him, said:

﴿فَمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُو لِقَاءَ رَبِّهِ فَلْيَعْمَلْ عَمَلًا صَالِحًا وَلَا يُشْرِكْ بِعِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ أَحَدًا﴾

“Faman Kāna Yarjū Liqā'a Rabbihi Falya'mal 'Amalāan Ṣālihāan Wa Lā Yushrik Bi'ibādati Rabbihi~ 'Aḥadāan” (So whoever would hope for the meeting with his Lord - let him do righteous work and not associate in the worship of his Lord anyone) [Al-Kahf: 110].



I reflect and determine

⦿ Indicate in the hadith “Acts are judged only by intentions and a man will have only what he intended” one condition for the acceptability of deeds.

Good intention

work for the sake of Allah, glory be to Him.

Good deed

I use my skills to learn:

The Status of Sincerity in Islam:

Sincerity is one of the greatest deeds of hearts. It is the soul of good deeds, the heart of worship acts and the basis of all deeds. No good deed by a Muslim will be acceptable without it. Given its importance, Allah, glory be to Him, ordered His Prophets and Messengers, peace be upon them, to have it. Allah, glory be to Him, said: ﴿إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا إِلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ بِالْحَقِّ فَاعْبُدِ اللَّهَ مُخْلِصًا لَهُ الدِّينَ (2) أَلَا لِلَّهِ الدِّينُ الْخَالِصُ﴾
“Innā 'Anzalnā 'Ilayka Al-Kitāba Bil-Ĥaqqi Fā'budi Allāha Mukhliṣāan Lahu Ad-Dīn (2) 'Alā Lillāh Ad-Dīnu Al-Khāliṣ” (Indeed, We have sent down to you the Book in truth. So worship Allah, being sincere to Him in religion (2) Unquestionably, for Allah is the pure religion) [Az-Zumar: 2-3].

Further, Allah, glory be to Him, promised those who act sincerely with great rewards; Allah, glory be to Him, said:

﴿إِلَّا الَّذِينَ تَابُوا وَأَصْلَحُوا وَاعْتَصَمُوا بِاللَّهِ وَأَخْلَصُوا دِينَهُمْ لِلَّهِ فَأُولَٰئِكَ مَعَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَسَوْفَ يُؤْتِي اللَّهُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا﴾

“Illā Al-Ladhīna Tābū Wa 'Aṣlahū Wa A'taṣamū Billāhi Wa 'Akhlaṣū Dīnahum Lillāh Fa'ulā'ika Ma'a Al-Mu'uminīna Wa Sawfa Yu'uti Allāhu Al-Mu'uminīna 'Ajrāan 'Aẓīmā” (Except for those who repent, correct themselves, hold fast to Allah , and are sincere in their religion for Allah , for those will be with the believers. And Allah is going to give the believers a great reward) [An-Nisā': 146].

Sincerity means truly intending all sayings and deeds, both apparent and hidden, for the sake of Allah alone and purifying human soul of demerits that negatively affect deeds, such as pride, arrogance, showing off and seeking reputation and popularity. Allah, glory be to Him, said:

﴿وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَذَٰلِكَ دِينُ الْقَيِّمَةِ﴾

“Wa Mā 'Umirū 'Illā Liya'budū Allaha Mukhliṣīna Lahu Ad-Dīna Ḥunafā'a Wa Yuqīmū Aṣ-Ṣalāata Wa Yu'utū Az-Zakāata Wa Dhalika Dīnu Al-Qayyimati” (And they were not commanded except to worship Allah, being sincere to Him in religion, inclining to truth, and to establish prayer and to give zakah. And that is the correct religion) [Al-Bayyinah: 5].





I think and Reflect

- Explain sincerity, showing off and reputation and indicate my position on each of them.

| Aspect of comparison | Sincerity | Showing off | Reputation |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Meaning | Good intention in obedience to God | To do something for people to praise | Worship is heard and people praise it |
| Example | Sincere intention in prayer | Giving a charity to be said he is generous | Remember Allah to be said that he is pious |



Allah, glory be to Him, said: ﴿قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ (1) اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ (2) لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ (3) وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ (4)﴾
 “Qul Huwa Allāhu 'Aḥad (1) Allāhu Aṣ-Ṣamad (2) Lam Yalid Wa Lam Yūlad (3) Walam Yakun Lahu Kufūan 'Aḥad (4)” (Say, "He is Allah, who is One (1) Allah , the Eternal Refuge (2) He neither begets nor is born (3) Nor is there to Him any equivalent. (4)) [Al-'Ikhlāṣ].

- The reason why Surat Al-'Ikhlāṣ was given this name.

Because it has the oneness of Allah, if the Muslim say it, and work he had a sincere deed to Allah.



I think and list:

- ☉ The biggest possible number of good deeds that require sincerity in intention:

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Indicators of sincerity:

Sincerity is a feature of the heart whose truth is only known to Allah, glory be to Him.

However, there are indicators that help the individual identify whether he has sincerity. These indicators include the following:

- ☉ When the person does not care whether people praise or dispraise him. Allah, glory be to him, said: ﴿إِنَّمَا نَطْعِمُكُمْ لَوَجْهِ اللَّهِ لَا نُرِيدُ مِنْكُمْ جَزَاءً وَلَا شُكُورًا (9) إِنَّا نَخَافُ مِنْ رَبَّنَا يَوْمًا عَبُوسًا قَمْطَرِيرًا (10)﴾
“Innamā Nuṭʿimukum Liwajhi Allāhi Lā Nurīdu Minkum Jazā'an Wa Lā Shukūrā (9) 'Innā Nakhāfu Min Rabbina Yawmāan `Abūsāan Qamṭarīrāan (10)” ("We feed you only for the countenance of Allah. We wish not from you reward or gratitude (9) Indeed, We fear from our Lord a Day austere and distressful (10)) [Al-'Insān: 9-10].

☉ When the person hastens to do good deeds because he feels that he should do more in obedience to his Creator. Allah, glory be to Him, said:

﴿وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْتُونَ مَا آتَوْا وَقُلُوبُهُمْ وَجِلَةٌ أَنَّهُمْ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ رَاجِعُونَ (60) أُولَٰئِكَ يُسَارِعُونَ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ وَهُمْ لَهَا سَابِقُونَ (61)﴾

“Wa Al-Ladhīna Yu'utūna Mā 'Ātaw Wa Qulūbuhum Wa Jilatun 'Annahum 'Ilā Rabbihiḥim Rāji'ūn (60) 'Ūlā'ika Yusāri'ūna Fī Al-Khayrāti Wa Hum Lahā Sābiqūn (61)” (And they who give what they give while their hearts are fearful because they will be returning to their Lord (60) It is those who hasten to good deeds, and they outstrip others therein.(61)) [Al-Mu'uminūn: 60-61].





I reflect and deduce:



Other indicators of sincerity from the following pieces of evidence:

- ① Allah, glory be to Him, said: ﴿مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ ثَوَابَ الدُّنْيَا فَعِنْدَ اللَّهِ ثَوَابُ الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ سَمِيعًا بَصِيرًا﴾ “Man Kāna Yurīdu Thawāba Ad-Dunyā Fa`inda Allāhi Thawābu Ad-Dunyā Wa Al-'Ākhirati Wa Kāna Allāhu Samī`āan Baṣīrā” (Whoever desires the reward of this world - then with Allah is the reward of this world and the Hereafter. And ever is Allah Hearing and Seeing) [An-Nisā': 134].
- ② The Prophet, peace be upon him, said: “Allah does not accept any deed, except that which is purely for Him, and seeking His Face” [narrated by Al-Nasa'i]

Lesson 4

Sincerity (2)

Objectives

- ✓ Tell some stories of sincere people.
- ✓ Deduce the effects of sincerity on the individual and society.
- ✓ Explain things that help achieve sincerity.

Sample stories of sincere people:

◎ Sincerity is a characteristic feature of Prophets and Messengers. Allah, glory be to Him, testified to this in the Holy Qur'an, when He said:

﴿وَاذْكُرْ عِبَادَنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَإِسْحَاقَ وَيَعْقُوبَ أُولَى الْأَيْدِي وَالْأَبْصَارِ (45) إِنَّا أَخْلَصْنَاهُمْ بِخَالِصَةٍ ذِكْرَى الدَّارِ (46) وَإِنَّهُمْ عِنْدَنَا لَمِنَ الْمُصْطَفَيْنَ الْأَخْيَارِ (47)﴾
“Wa Adhkur `Ibādanā `Ibrāhīma Wa `Ishāqa Wa Ya`qūba `Ulī Al-`Aydī Wa Al-`Abṣār (45) `Innā `Akhlaṣnāhum Bikhālīṣatin Dhikrā Ad-Dāri (46) Wa `Innahum `Indanā Lamina Al-Muṣṭafayna Al-`Akhyāri (47)” (And

remember Our servants, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - those of strength and religious vision (45) Indeed, We chose them for an exclusive quality: remembrance of the home of the Hereafter (46) And indeed they are, to Us, among the chosen and outstanding) [Ṣād: 45-47]. Our Prophet is our role model in sincerity; he was sincere in calling to Allah even in the most difficult circumstances, and continued without hesitation or tire. His companions, may Allah be pleased with them, followed in his steps and were keen on hiding their deeds. Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq, may Allah be pleased with him, used to take care of an old woman and serve her without anybody knowing about it until Omar bin Al-Khattab, may Allah be pleased with him,

followed him and learnt what he was doing for the old woman.



Founding leader Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah have mercy upon him

We in the United Arab Emirates learnt sincerity from the founder of our country Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah have mercy upon him, who directed all his thought and money to serve the people and build the country. He provided charity and humanitarian work for all people in need around the world; some were known during his lifetime and some we came to know only after his death, may Allah have mercy upon him. We are still learning sincerity from our wise leadership, which works on developing a future outlook in order to ensure security and welfare of its sincere people that offer their efforts and lives to develop their country in all fields, thereby obeying Allah, glory be to Him, and the sincere rulers of the country. One of the fruits of this sincerity is that Allah, glory be to Him, has protected our beloved country

from dangers and enabled it to achieve the highest levels of progress and prosperity.



I think and Reflect

The following cases with explanation:

- Someone was honoured for his innovative invention, and he was pleased with that although his aim was to get reward from Allah and to contribute to the progress of the UAE.

Not to be sad for his double intention. The original is Allah's sake.

- pilgrimage so that he could post them on social media.

It is showing off

Hadith 1: "Say: 'It is Allah I serve, with my sincere and exclusive devotion'"





I think and express:

My sincerity towards Allah, glory be to Him, in the following:

- ① My love to my country, the United Arab Emirates.

- ② My loyalty to the rulers of the United Arab Emirates.

Fruits of Sincerity

- ① Allah, glory be to Him, rewards his sincere servants with goodness in this world and grants them in full in the Hereafter. He said: ﴿مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْحَيَاةَ الدُّنْيَا وَزِينَتَهَا نُوَفِّ إِلَيْهِمْ أَعْمَالَهُمْ فِيهَا وَهُمْ فِيهَا لَا يُبْخَسُونَ﴾
“Man Kāna Yurīdu Al-Ĥayāata Ad-Dunyā Wa Zīnatahā Nuwaffī 'Ilayhim 'A'mālahum Fīhā Wa Hum Fīhā Lā Yubkhasūn” (Whoever desires the life of this world and its adornments - We fully repay them for their deeds therein, and they therein will not be deprived) [Hūd: 15].

- ② Sincerity is one reason for success in the world and in the Hereafter. The Prophet, peace be upon him, said: “The luckiest person who will have my intercession on the Day of Judgment will be the one who said sincerely from the bottom of his heart “None has the right to be worshipped but Allah.” [narrated by Al-Bukhari]





I cooperate and deduce



Other effects of sincerity on the individual and society from the following hadith:

| Prophet's Hadith | Positive effects of sincerity |
|--|--|
| <p>The Prophet, peace be upon him, said: "Whoever makes the Hereafter his goal, Allah makes his heart rich, and organizes his affairs, and the world comes to him whether it wants to or not. And whoever makes the world his goal, Allah puts his poverty right before his eyes, and disorganizes his affairs, and the world does not come to him, except what has been decreed for him." [narrated by Al-Tarmethi and Ibn Hebban].</p> | <p>Tranquility and happy in the present life and the hereafter</p> |

Methods for acquiring sincerity:

- 1 **Self-examination: the Prophet, peace be upon Him, said: “Verily, Allah does not look at your faces and your wealth, but He looks at your heart and deeds.”** (narrated by Muslim). This hadith indicates that man is responsible and will be held accountable for his intentions and deeds. Therefore, a Muslim must be careful about his intention.
- 2 **Continuous fear of Allah, glorified and exalted be He.** ﴿وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مَخْرَجًا (2) وَيَرْزُقْهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَحْتَسِبُ﴾ “Wa Man Yattaqi Allāha Yaj`al Lahu Makhrajāan (2) Wa Yarzuquhu Min Haythu Lā Yahtasib” (And whoever fears Allah - He will make for him a way out (2) And will provide for him from where he does not expect) [Aṭ-Ṭalāq: 2-3].
- 3 **Being keen on getting reward from Allah, glory be to Him, and doing more good deeds, because Allah, glory be to Him, said: ﴿وَلَا خَيْرَ لَكَ مِنَ الْآخِرَةِ﴾** “Wa Lal`āakhiratu Khayrun Laka Mina Al-`Ūlá” (And the Hereafter is better for you than the first life) [Ad-Ḍuḥāá: 4]..
- 4 **Saying more prayers and repeatedly asking for firmness and continuous sincerity in sayings and deeds. One of the prayers of the Prophet, peace be upon him, was “O Changer of hearts, make my heart firm upon Your religion.”** [narrated by Al-Tarmethi and Ibn Hebban].
- 5 **Reflecting on the verses on sincerity and the reward of sincere people, such as the following verses from the Qur`an,**
﴿مَنْ كَانَ يُرِيدُ الْعَاجِلَةَ عَجَّلْنَا لَهُ فِيهَا مَا نَشَاءُ لِمَنْ نُرِيدُ ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَا لَهُ جَهَنَّمَ يَصْلَاهَا مَذْمُومًا مَذْهُورًا (18) وَمَنْ أَرَادَ الْآخِرَةَ وَسَعَىٰ لَهَا سَعْيَهَا وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَأُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ سَعْيُهُمْ مَشْكُورًا (19)﴾
“Man Kāna Yurīdu Al-`Ājilata `Ajjalnā Lahu Fīhā Mā Nashā`u Liman Nurīdu Thumma Ja`alnā Lahu Jahannama Yaṣlāhā Madhmūmāan Madhūrā (18) Wa Man `Arāda Al-`Ākhirata Wa Sa`á Lahā Sa`yahā Wa Huwa Mu`uminun Fa`ulā`ika Kāna Sa`yuhum Mashkūrā (19)” (Whoever should desire the immediate - We hasten for him from it what We will to whom We intend. Then We have made for him Hell, which he will [enter to] burn, censured and banished (18) But whoever desires the Hereafter and exerts the effort due to it while he is a believer - it is those whose effort is ever appreciated by Allah (19)) [Al-`Isrā': 18-19].



I think and add

⦿ Other methods that help a Muslim have sincerity.

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I organize My Imprint

☉ I complete the following conceptual chart:



self accounting
The inherent
piety of God
Plenty of good
deeds
Pray and
frequent
Reflect on the
verses of
sincerity

Feeling
happy in
the world

Even praise
and vilification
Feelings of
default
Accelerate the
good things

Great
reward
with few
work

The sincerity
of the
intention in
the works are
all apparent
and inward



First: I answer by myself:

1 The Prophet, peace be upon him, said: "Seven people Allah will give them His Shade on the Day when there would be no shade but the Shade of His Throne: a just ruler; a youth who grew up with the worship of Allah; a person whose heart is attached to mosques, two men who love and meet each other and depart from each other for the sake of Allah; a man whom an extremely beautiful woman seduces, but he rejects this offer and says: 'I fear Allah'; a man who gives in charity and conceals it (to such an extent) that the left hand does not know what the right has given; and a man who remembers Allah in solitude and his eyes become tearful." [narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Explain forms of sincerity in the hadith.

☉ Sincerity in alms.



2

Compare and contrast sincerity and showing off in the following table:

| Aspect of comparison | Sincerity | Showing off |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Aspects of similarity: | Hidden | apparent |
| Aspects of difference: | For sake of Allah | Praise and |
| Result: | Accepted | Depressed |