

# THE **F1RST**S

A Lecture Series

**YAQREEN**<sup>™</sup>  
INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC RESEARCH

# Abu Bakr - Part II

## An Elevated Standard

He was a trend setter and has no competition in anything he does. Ali said about him - he was the first to every good, unbeatable in the pursuit of good. His nickname is “As Siddiq”, the truthful one. A ‘Siddiq’ (a truthful person) recognizes the truth, commits himself to the truth, and never wanes from that truth. When the heart is pure, the mind is free to see the truth. This category of people is between the Prophets and the martyrs.

Since we are judged by our intentions, the ‘Siddiq’ always has the attitude of martyrdom throughout their entire life. Truthful in their speech, truthful in their actions, there is no discrepancy between what they say and reality. There must be consistency of words and actions.

The Prophet ﷺ called him “As Siddiq” the first time after the Night of Isra & Miraj (the Night Journey). On the way back, he said to Jibreel, “my people will not believe me”, and Jibreel answered, Abu Bakr will believe you, and he is “As Sideeq”, (the truthful one). When he ﷺ told everyone, as expected, no one believed him and they made fun of him. The people went to Abu Bakr to see what he thinks of the Prophet’s ﷺ claim of the Journey, and he surprised them by saying, without hesitation, ‘if he ﷺ said this, then he is telling the truth and I believe him’. That was a full expression of confidence in the Prophet Mohammad ﷺ by his best friend and companion. He said ‘ I believe him when he says he’s a Prophet, so I believe him in this as well.’ He never had hesitation in believing in anything the Prophet ﷺ said. He was the first one the Prophet would consult with because they had a similar vision. They both believed Islam would thrive in peace.

Even though this was still during the Mecca phase, while it was difficult to be Muslim and Muslims were persecuted, Abu Bakr still chose to follow Prophet Mohammad ﷺ in everything, with nothing to gain.

## Clarity of Truth

When the Prophet ﷺ died, Abu Bakr was sadder than anyone, yet he was able to think clearly and remind everyone that “for those who worship Mohammad, he is dead, whoever worships Allah, He is eternal and never dies”. He was always driven only with the truth.

No one could guide the ummah after the Prophet ﷺ better than Abu Bakr, because he knew him best ﷺ, and understood what he wanted.

## The Ultimate Muhsen

Prophet Mohammad ﷺ said that Abu Bakr will be welcomed from all the gates into Paradise because he excelled in all his good actions. Ali narrates that, though he was small in build, he was like a ferocious lion, protecting the Messenger ﷺ in battle.

A valid narration states that one day the Prophet ﷺ gathered his companions and asked who of them was fasting, then asked who of them followed a funeral procession that day, who amongst them fed a poor person that day, who visited a sick person that day. Abu Bakr answered yes to all of them. The Prophet ﷺ wanted to point out that no one does all these actions in one day and doesn't get called into Jannah from all its' gates.

Ibn Jawzi said “the virtues of Abu Bakr are specific only to him, but the virtues of the other companions are shared’. He is the only companion that every member of his family became Muslim during his lifetime. This was Allah’s gift to him.

The Quran speaks of him and to him. When Ayesha, his daughter and wife of Prophet Mohammad ﷺ was slandered, a verse came down about him. Allah revealed “...wouldn't you love that Allah forgive and pardon you?” Abu Bakr heard that from the Prophet Mohammad ﷺ and said “yes, I'd love that”, and he forgave his cousin, who was one of the ones spreading the slander. Even Allah held him to a different standard.

He was known to take care of the widows and the orphans, by milking their goats. When he became a Caliph, they worried that he wouldn't come by to help them anymore. He never skipped a day, even with his raised social status. When he was asked why he still continued to help them, he replied “ I would hate that the title of Caliph would take away a good characteristic from me.” He refused to neglect doing good just because he became a Caliph.

## Outdoing Abu Bakr

Omar tried to outdo him in sadaqa but was not able to. When Prophet Mohammad ﷺ once asked for charity, Omar brought 50% of what he owned, when asked what he left for his family, he told the Prophet ﷺ that he left them the same amount. Later, Abu Bakr brought everything he owned, and when asked what he left for his family he said, 'I kept for them Allah and His Messenger.' The Prophet Mohammad ﷺ smiled and he praised him. Omar said 'I will never be able to meet you in any good.'

Omar said every day after Fajr prayer, Abu Bakr would go deep into the desert and Omar once followed him to see what he was doing. He saw him going into a house and spent a long time, all the way till the afternoon. He then left the house and went home. Omar knocked on the door and an elderly, blind, frail woman answered the door with small children running around. She said she didn't have anyone to take care of her and the orphans in her house. He asked her who is that person who comes to your house every day. She said I don't know who he is, he never shared his name with me. Omar asked what he does, she said he cleans my home, washes our clothes, grinds our wheat, bakes our bread, cooks our breakfast, and then he leaves. Even with his status, and without letting her know who he is, he perfected his good actions every single day. Omar began to cry and said "you have exhausted every successor after you". This impeccable standard was impossible to match but Omar was learning from the way Abu Bakr conducted himself while he was the Caliph and that would greatly impact how Omar would later lead as Caliph himself.

Once, after inadvertently pushing someone in a crowd, he felt so bad about it he begged the person to push him back. Omar told him to compensate him instead of letting him hit him. The man agreed and so he compensated him instead.

Imam Muzzany said Abu Bakr did not outdo everyone else because of the amount of fasting and prayer but it was something in his heart - certainty in Allah's promise and the desire to always do better. He had a constant, innate source of motivation and inspiration and if he saw a good opportunity, he would commit himself to it right away.

### Lessons Learned

- Do good deeds that only Allah knows about.
- Do good deeds with a high standard of excellence. Never just do the minimum
- One moment of truthfulness with Allah and seeking His pleasure is worth much more than ritualistic worship.
- Don't wait for others to blaze the trail - set your own standard and the standard for everyone around you.

***Disclaimer:** Notes for The Firsts are brought to you by dedicated students for your personal reference. Please refer to the original lecture for source material.*