

Mentor Me

(A Collection of Islamic Stories to Mentor Young Hearts)

Series 1- Repentance



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Preface

Each week, I hold mentoring sessions for about 10-15 Muslim children and teenagers. Despite this, I often wonder if I am truly making a significant impact on the Muslim community, given the relatively small number of participants in these sessions compared to the millions of Muslim children out there.

Then I felt if parents could be empowered to mentor their children, perhaps, we as a Muslim community can be able to raise many righteous, self and socially-aware Muslim children In shaa Allah.

However, recognizing the critical shortage of specialized Islamic mentoring resources that could aid Muslim parents in enhancing their parent-child relationships through mentoring, I was inspired to create this book.

"Mentor Me" offers a do-it-yourself approach to mentoring, enabling Muslim parents to mentor their children independently by using this book as a resource. The book is released in a series, covering carefully selected topics designed to mentor children.

The book serves as an engaging resource for children (8 years and above), filled with captivating Islamic stories that stimulate their reasoning, awareness, spiritual and moral development. Needless to say that even adults will also find the book highly beneficial.

Feel free to let your children read the book and then hold focused discussions with them about the lessons and morals highlighted at the end of each story while relating them to their own experiences and realities.

If you are a child reading this book, just skip the preface; it's for your parent. Oh, did you just read the preface now? Smiles...

AbdulFattah Popoola
MAP Mentoring

Introduction

Assalam Alaykum friends! Have you ever wondered about repentance and why it's important in our faith? Repentance is a really special part of Islam—it's about admitting when we've made mistakes and sincerely asking Allah for forgiveness.

Repentance isn't just something we do once and forget about. It's something we should try to do every day. The Prophet said that Allah stretches out His hand at night to forgive those who did wrong during the day, and He does the same during the day for those who did wrong at night. Isn't that amazing? It shows how much Allah loves it when we turn to Him with a sincere heart.

Nobody is perfect. We all make mistakes, whether big or small. Sometimes we might even feel like our mistakes are tiny, like a fly on our nose. But every little mistake matters because it's disobeying Allah, who loves us so much. That's why repentance is always important, no matter how old we are or what mistakes we've made.

In this book, we'll explore some stories of repentance that involved people of the past so we can learn from them for us to become better Muslims In shaa Allah.

Are you ready to dive into this journey of learning and discovery? Let's explore repentance together and see how it can make a big difference in our lives!

Repentance and Mercy in Silence

During the time of Prophet Musa (AS), the Banu Israel (Israelites) were afflicted with drought. Some people gathered themselves and went to Prophet Musa (AS) lamenting "Oh Kaleem-ul-Llah (the one who speaks to Allah), make dua to your Lord to send down rain for us!"

Prophet Musa (AS) took the people to the desert and they were about 70,000 or more on this particular day. He (AS) led them in prayer, knelt down and raised his hands to the sky saying:

"Oh my Lord, please send down rain for us and spread your mercy among us, have mercy on our suckling infants and our poor animals and our weak elders".

After Prophet Musa (AS) finished the prayer, one would expect a miracle to happen; that rain should start to fall immediately. However, the sun did not stop shining and the heat got even more intense!

This was surprising to Prophet Musa (AS) and he wondered why Allah did not grant his request for rain. Then, Allah inspired him, informing him that there's a serial sinner in their midst who brazenly offends Him since the past 40 years! Allah then asked Prophet Musa (AS) to call the person out to leave the gathering before He would send down the rain.

Prophet Musa (AS) thought it would be impossible to get the person out in the midst of the multitude, so he said:

"Oh my Lord, I am Your weak servant and my voice is weak as well, how far can my voice travel in a gathering of 70000 or more people?"

Then Allah replied Prophet Musa (AS) asking him to make the call and not bother about whether the sinner will hear or not. Immediately, Prophet Musa (AS) made the call, exclaiming:

"Oh you sinner who has brazenly offended Allah for the past 40 years, leave our midst now for it was because of you that rain was withheld from us!"

The sinner heard this call, he looked to his right and left hoping to see someone move out of the gathering but no one did. He then realised he is the one being referred to by Prophet Musa (AS). Meanwhile, he thought to himself:

"should I leave the gathering now, I would be shamefully exposed among the Israelites and they will all know about my sins but if I remain in the gathering, the people will be deprived from getting rain".

He was in a dilemma and didn't know what to do. He hid his face in his garment crying and regretting his sinful action. He then remorsefully called on Allah, saying:

"Oh my Lord, my Master, I sinned against you for forty years and you granted me respite till today (you did not expose me), here I come seeking your forgiveness so please accept me as your repentant servant (and do not expose me)"

He was on this saying when the cloud began to gather and before anyone knew, it started to rain! It rained heavily that everyone returned home drenched by the rain. Allah Akbar!

Again, Prophet Musa (AS) was surprised and he asked Allah "Oh Allah, why did you send down the rain when no sinner left our midst? " Then Allah replied him that it was because the sinner repented.

This time, Prophet Musa (AS) became curious and he wanted to know whom the person was. He asked Allah to show the person to him but Allah said to Prophet Musa (AS).

"I did not expose my servant when he was committing the sin for those number of years so, why will I expose him now that he has come to me with repentance and after I have forgiven him?" SubhaanaLlah!

Let's discuss...

1. Saying Sorry Matters

The story shows that saying sorry and really meaning it can make a big difference. Even though the sinner did bad things for 40 years, he was deeply sorry and his heartfelt plea for forgiveness earned him Allah's mercy. This teaches us that it's never too late to seek forgiveness from Allah and fix our mistakes. Say sorry to whoever you have wronged and that will make things better for you.

2. Be Kind and Forgiving

When Allah forgave the sinner without exposing him, it teaches us to be kind and forgiving to others. You should learn to forgive those who hurt you and show kindness, just like Allah has demonstrated to us. Forgiveness helps build better friendships and relationships.

3. Take Responsibility for Your Actions

The sinner realized his actions were hurting everyone. When he decided to change, it brought rain and relief to all. This teaches us that our actions affect others. Therefore, we should take responsibility of our actions and make good choices.

4. Keep Secrets and Be Humble

Allah didn't tell anyone who the sinner was after he repented. This teaches us to keep others' secrets and not embarrass them. Being humble and respectful helps create a caring family and society.

5. Be a Good Leader

Prophet Musa (AS) was a good leader who cared for his people and prayed for them. This teaches us to be kind, patient, and caring leaders. Good leaders help and guide others through tough times.

Forgiveness and Truth: The Story of Ka'b Ibn Malik

Ka'b Ibn Malik once missed going out on a battle with the Prophet (SAW) and he was deeply sorry for that. Let's read on as Ka'b narrates the story to his son...

I never missed a battle with the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), peace be upon him, except for the Battle of Badr. The Prophet (SAW) did not blame anyone for missing Badr because it was an unexpected encounter between the Muslims and the Quraysh.

I participated in all other battles with the Prophet (SAW) until the Battle of Tabuk, the last battle he (SAW) fought. The Prophet (SAW) asked people to prepare for the battle at a time when the weather was pleasant and the fruits were ripe, meaning it was a time for farm harvest. Unlike other battles where he (SAW) often kept his plans secret, the Prophet (SAW) openly instructed everyone to get ready for Tabuk. The Muslims abandoned their harvest and prepared for the battle.

I was well-prepared with two camels and felt strong and ready for the journey. However, as the Prophet (SAW) set out on Thursday morning, a day he preferred for traveling, I decided to wait until the next day to buy supplies from the market.

I went to the market the next day, intending to join the Prophet (SAW) and the army. However, some tasks delayed me, so I decided to go the next day. This cycle repeated, and I kept postponing until it was too late to join them. The Prophet (SAW) and the Muslims had all left Madinah for the battle. I felt guilty and wandered around the city, feeling sad because the only people left behind were known hypocrites.

In total, around eighty men stayed behind, and I was worried about staying together with them. The Prophet (SAW) did not ask about me until he reached Tabuk. When he (SAW) did, a man from my tribe said I was held back by my clothes and comfort. Muadh bin Jabal defended me, saying that I was a good person.

When the Prophet (SAW) completed the Battle of Tabuk and was on the way back to Medina, I began to worry about his anger. I sought advice from my family, but ultimately decided that speaking the truth was my only option.

When the Prophet (SAW) arrived in Medina, he followed his routine of praying in the mosque first. I went to meet him and be honest about why I had stayed behind.

When I entered the mosque, I found the Prophet (SAW), peace be upon him, sitting. He smiled at me, but it was the smile of someone who was displeased. I sat in front of him, and he asked, "What kept you behind?"

I responded honestly, saying, "O Prophet of Allah, if I were with anyone else, I could have easily made an excuse and avoided their anger. But I know that if I lie to you now, Allah will eventually reveal the truth. So, I will tell you the truth: I have no excuse. I was never in a better situation than when I stayed behind."

(Ka'b admitted that he had no valid excuse; he was physically capable and had the means to go for the battle. However, he procrastinated and kept delaying his preparations, thinking he still had time. Eventually, it was too late, and he missed the opportunity to join the expedition. Ka'b was honest about his mistake and didn't try to make excuses, showing his sincere regret).

The Prophet (SAW) said, "You have spoken the truth. You can leave until Allah decides your case."

(This is because it is indeed a great sin for a Muslim not to join the Muslims in battle against their disbelieving enemies or run away from the battle field).

As I stood, some of my people approached me and rebuked me. They said, "We have never known you to commit a sin before this. Why didn't you make an excuse to the Prophet (SAW) and seek his forgiveness? Now you have placed yourself in a difficult position, not knowing what will happen to you."

They pressured me so much that I almost went back to the Prophet (SAW) to lie.

I asked if anyone else had confessed like me, and they told me about Hilal bin Umayyah and Marara bin Rabi'ah, two righteous men who had also been honest about missing the battle. I decided to follow their example and remain truthful.

The Prophet (SAW) then commanded the people not to speak to us, three of us, who had stayed behind without a valid reason. This made our situation even more challenging, as everyone avoided us.

After the Prophet (SAW) commanded the people not to speak to us, I felt severe loneliness. No one in the market or street would talk to me. I was the strongest of my two companions as both of them remained inside, weeping constantly but I continued to go out and walk around the market and visit the mosque.

I would greet the Prophet (SAW), wondering if he acknowledged my greeting by moving his lips. If I prayed close to him, he (SAW) would glance at me out of the corner of his eye, but when I looked directly at him, he (SAW) turned away.

One day, while I was in the market, a Christian man came with food to sell. He asked for me and handed me a letter from the king of Ghassan, a city in Yemen. The letter invited me to join him and leave the Prophet (SAW) and the Muslim community in Madinah promising me that I would find peace of mind and friendship in Ghassan. I saw this as another test from Allah and burned the letter.

Forty days into our isolation, a messenger from the Prophet (SAW) came with a new command: we were to separate from our wives. I asked if this meant divorce, but he said it only meant avoiding closeness.

Hilal bin Umayyah's wife approached the Prophet (SAW), explaining that Hilal was old and weak. She asked for permission to serve him, which the Prophet granted, as long as they are not physically close to one another.

As the days dragged on, I became more desperate. I visited my cousin Abu Qatada, hoping for some support. I greeted him, but he did not respond. I pleaded with him, swearing by Allah's name, to acknowledge that I was still a believer. I asked him if he knew that I loved Allah and His Messenger (SAW). He responded, "Allah and His Messenger know best" and I broke down in tears. Feeling so helpless and sad, I left.

Fifty nights had passed since the Prophet (SAW) commanded people not to speak to us. One morning, after the dawn prayer, I sat in despair, feeling as though the world was closing in on me. Suddenly, I heard a voice from the top of the hill of Sila calling out, "Rejoice, Ka'b bin Malik!" I fell to the ground in Sujud (prostration), knowing that Allah had granted me relief.

A man came running to me with the good news, and I gave him my cloak in gratitude. The man informed me that the Prophet (SAW) had received the revelation of our forgiveness during the night. Umm Salamah, the Prophet (SAW)'s wife, had suggested announcing the good news to me, but the Prophet (SAW) decided to wait until morning.

When I arrived at the mosque, I found the Prophet (SAW) surrounded by the Muslims. His face shone with happiness like the moon. I sat in front of him, and he said, "Rejoice, Ka'b bin Malik, for this is the best day since your mother gave birth to you." I asked, "Is this forgiveness from Allah or from you?" He replied, "From Allah."

The Prophet (SAW) then recited the verse which Allah revealed to him on our case:

لَقَدْ تَابَ اللَّهُ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ وَالْمُهَاجِرِينَ وَالْأَنْصَارِ الَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُ فِي سَاعَةِ
الْعُسْرَةِ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا كَادَ يَزِيغُ قُلُوبُ فَرِيقٍ مِّنْهُمْ ثُمَّ تَابَ عَلَيْهِمْ إِنَّهُ بِهِمْ
رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ ﴿١١٧﴾

Allah has certainly turned in mercy to the Prophet as well as the Emigrants and the Helpers who stood by him in the time of hardship, after the hearts of a group of them had almost faltered. He then accepted their repentance. Surely He is Ever Gracious and Most Merciful to them (Qur'an 9:117)

وَعَلَى الثَّلَاثَةِ الَّذِينَ خُلِفُوا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا ضَاقَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ الْأَرْضُ بِمَا رَحُبَتْ وَضَاقَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ
أَنفُسُهُمْ وَظَنُّوا أَن لَا مَلْجَأَ مِنَ اللَّهِ إِلَّا إِلَيْهِ ثُمَّ تَابَ عَلَيْهِمْ لِيَتُوبُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ التَّوَّابُ
الرَّحِيمُ ﴿١١٨﴾

“And ‘Allah has also turned in mercy to’ the three who had remained behind, ‘whose guilt distressed them’ until the earth, despite its vastness, seemed to close in on them, and their souls were torn in anguish. They knew there was no refuge from Allah except in Him. Then He turned to them in mercy so that they might repent. Surely Allah ‘alone’ is the Acceptor of Repentance, Most Merciful” (Qur’an 9:118)

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ ﴿١١٩﴾

O believers! Be mindful of Allah and be with the truthful (Qur’an 9:119)

I told the Prophet (SAW) that as part of my repentance, I would speak only the truth and give away all my wealth as charity to Allah and His Messenger. The Prophet (SAW) advised me to keep some of my wealth for my needs.

Allah tested me with honesty in a way that no one else has experienced. Since then, I have never deliberately told a lie, and I hope that Allah will continue to protect me in the future.....

And till his death, Ka'b Ibn Malik never told a lie!

Let's discuss...

1. Importance of Honesty

Ka'b bin Malik's honesty, even when it was difficult, shows how important it is to always tell the truth. We should learn that being honest, especially in tough situations, is always the right choice. Lying might seem easier, but it can lead to more problems later on.

2. Taking Responsibility

Ka'b took responsibility for his actions and admitted his mistake. This teaches us to own up to our actions and not blame others or make excuses. Taking responsibility is a sign of maturity and helps build trust with others. Asking for forgiveness sincerely can also lead to positive outcomes.

3. Patience and Perseverance

Ka'b endured 50 days of loneliness, showing great patience and perseverance. This teaches us that sometimes we would have to face difficult times, but we should remain patient and keep our faith strong, praying and hoping for Allah's mercy and help.

4. Avoiding Procrastination

Ka'b kept postponing his preparations for the battle, which led to him missing it entirely. This teaches us the importance of doing the right things at the right time and not delaying our responsibilities, as procrastination can lead to missed opportunities and regrets in life.

5. Learning from Mistakes

Ka'b learned from his mistake and resolved never to lie again. We should understand that making mistakes is a part of life, but what matters is learning from them and not repeating them.

A Parent's Curse: The Story Of Munaazil Ibn Laahiq

One day, 'Ali ibn Abu Ṭaalib and his son Al-Ḥussain ibn 'Ali were walking together. Suddenly, they heard a man's voice rising in the air, filled with anguish and desperation. This man was pouring his heart out to Allah, begging for forgiveness for all the bad things he had done.

His voice was so raw, so full of regret, that it stopped 'Ali in his tracks. He turned to his son and said, "Do you hear that? That man is drowning in his own remorse. Go, bring him to me.

Al-Ḥussain looked around for the man and found him. He was well-dressed, clean, and had a pleasant scent, but there was something tragic about him—his right side was completely paralyzed. Al-Ḥussain said, "My father, the Leader of the Believers, wants to see you."

With a struggle, dragging his lifeless right side, the man followed Al-Ḥussain back to 'Ali. When they reached, 'Ali looked deep into the man's eyes and asked, "Who are you? What's your story?"

The man, with a voice filled with pain, replied, "I'm Munaazil ibn Laahiq. My story is one of regret and punishment."

'Ali's became more curious to know about this man's story. "Tell me everything," he urged.

Munaazil took a deep breath and began, "I was known far and wide for my wild and sinful ways. My father, a kind and patient man, never stopped trying to guide me back to the right path. He would always say, 'My son, don't you fear Allah's punishment?' But I was young and reckless, and his words just made me angry.

One day, I lost it and hit him hard. After one particularly bad beating, he swore an oath: 'By Allah, I will fast and pray non-stop until you change.' He fasted for a whole week, but I was still the same. Heartbroken, he left for Makkah, vowing to ask Allah for help against me."

Munaazil's voice trembled as he continued, "When he reached the Kaa'bah, he clung to its curtain and prayed for my punishment, asking Allah to make me paralysed on one side of my body. By the One Who raised the sky and sends down the rain, no sooner did my father finish his supplication than I became paralysed on my right side, which became like a piece of wood.

People who passed by me would point at me and say, 'That's him, Allah answered father's prayer against him'

'Ali asked, "What did your father do then?"

Tears welled up in Munaazil's eyes. "I begged my father to forgive me and pray for my healing. After he was pleased with me, He agreed to go back to the Ka'abah to pray to Allah on my behalf and I followed him as he rode on his camel. But as we reached the Valley of Arak, a group of birds flew away from a tree, their sudden movement frightened the camel. As the camel raced off in a state of fright, it threw my father off and he died right there."

By now, both 'Ali and Al-Hussain were moved by the man's story. 'Ali said, "It's never too late to seek forgiveness. Keep praying and repenting for your sins." Before parting ways, 'Ali taught Munaazil a special supplication for times of distress, giving him a glimmer of hope.

We don't know for sure what later became of Munaazil but we hoped he was forgiven by Allah and cured of his paralysis.

Before we talk about the lessons from this story, let's look at something the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said regarding the prayers of parents. He (SAW) said:

"Three prayers are undoubtedly answered: the prayer of one who is wronged, the prayer of the traveller and the prayer of a father for his child." Narrated by Ibn Maajah (3862)

But the Prophet (SAW) also warned parents not to say bad things about their children. He (SAW) said:

“Do not pray against yourselves, do not pray against your children, do not pray against your wealth, because it might be a time when Allah is answering prayers, and He might give you what you ask for” Narrated by Muslim (3014).

So, if you are reading this and you are not a parent yet, remember these important words from the Prophet (SAW) for when you do become a parent. Never curse your child!

Let's discuss...

1. Respect Your Parents

One of the biggest lessons from this story is to respect your parents. Munaazil's father tried to help him by giving him advice and warning him about his bad behavior. But Munaazil ignored him and even hurt him. This led to serious problems for Munaazil. Our parents care about us and usually know what's best. Listening to them and respecting what they say can help us avoid trouble.

2. Actions Have Consequences

Munaazil's bad actions and his disrespect toward his father led to a terrible punishment. This shows that what we do can have serious consequences. It's important to think before we act and try to make good choices. If we understand that our actions can affect our lives and others, we can make better decisions.

3. The Power of Prayer

The story shows how powerful prayer can be. Munaazil's father prayed to Allah to punish his son, and his prayer was answered. Later, Munaazil prayed for forgiveness and was advised to keep praying. Prayer can help us when we're in trouble, when we need help, or when we're sorry for something we've done. It's a way to seek help and guidance from Allah.

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The Promise of Heaven: Malik Ibn Dinar and the Wealthy Young Man

Once upon a time in a city called Basra, there was a beautiful and grand mansion being built. A young man, who was very handsome and seemed really excited about making this building perfect, was overseeing everything. He kept telling the workers, "Build it like this, and like that."

One day, Malik bin Dinar and Ja'far Ibn Sulaiman, two pious Islamic scholars, were walking by and saw the young man. Malik turned to Ja'far and said, "Look at this young man! He seems so dedicated to building this mansion. Maybe his dedication will lead him to a great future. Let's go talk to him."

They entered the construction site and greeted the young man. He greeted them back but didn't recognize Malik. After Malik introduced himself, the young man stood up and asked politely, "How can I help you?"

Malik asked him, "How much money are you spending on this mansion?" The young man replied, "One hundred thousand dirhams." That was a whole lot of money in those days.

Malik then said to him: "What if you gave me that money so I can help people who need it? In return, I promise that God will give you a palace in heaven, far better than this one. It will be made of the finest jewels, with a ground of saffron, and it will last forever."

The young man thought about it and said, "Give me the night to think about it, and come back early in the morning." That night, Malik and Ja'far were hopeful the young man would make a wise decision. Meanwhile, the man reflected on his life; how busy he had been with worldly things and how he had forgotten to help people with his money. The man sought Allah's forgiveness and repented.

The next morning, Malik and Ja'far returned and found the young man waiting for them. He greeted them warmly and said, "I've decided to accept your offer." He called for someone to write down the promise.

The promise read thus:

"In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful. This is what Malik bin Dinar has guaranteed for the young man: a palace in heaven, more beautiful and lasting than any on Earth."

The young man gave Malik the money, and Malik handed him the written promise. The young man kept just enough money for his needs for that day. Forty days later, the young man passed away. One morning, Malik found the promise note placed in the mosque's prayer area. He was surprised and wondered how the note got there. It was suppose to be with the young man who gave his wealth in charity!

Malik took up the note and on the back, without ink, it was written: "This is a message from Allah, the Mighty, the Wise, to Malik bin Dinar: We have fulfilled our promise to the young man you guaranteed, seventy-fold."

Malik was deeply moved. He and Ja'far went to the young man's house and found mourners inside. They asked about the young man and learned he had passed away recently. Malik then asked the person who washed the man if he knew of a promise note. The washer replied "yes" and he showed Malik the note. Now, there were two notes!

Malik and his friend confirmed the note they had with them was the same they gave the young man before his death. Just that the promise note Malik found on the Mimbar included another promise from Allah! Allah Akbar!

Malik was overwhelmed with emotion, he cried. Not long after, another young man offered a lot of money for a similar promise. Malik rejected him saying: "What happened cannot be repeated. Allah decides as He wills."

Malik always remembered the young man fondly and prayed for his soul. And so, the young man who once was busy with his mansion on Earth ended up with a magnificent palace in heaven because he chose to change from being addicted to worldly things to helping others and trusting in Allah's promise.

Let's discuss...

1. Be generous, help others in need

The young man was initially focused on building a beautiful mansion for himself but when Malik bin Dinar suggested that he use his money to help others instead, the young man agreed. This decision changed his life and earned him a promise of a palace in heaven. Helping others, whether with our time, money, or kindness, is a wonderful way to earn great rewards, even if we can't see them right away.

2. The Value of Wise Decisions

Making wise decisions is another key lesson from the story. The young man took the time to think about Malik's offer instead of making a hasty decision. This shows us the importance of thinking carefully and considering our choices. Taking a moment to reflect on what we are about to do can help us make better and more thoughtful decisions, which can lead to better outcomes in our lives.

3. Worldly Things are not Permanent

The story also teaches us that material things, like the young man's mansion, are not permanent. They can be beautiful and enjoyable, but they won't last forever. What truly lasts are the good deeds we do and the kindness we show to others. Focusing on what we can do for others, rather than just on what we can have, brings deeper satisfaction and meaning to our lives.

4. Legacy of Good Actions

Lastly, the story shows us that our actions leave a legacy. The young man's choice to use his wealth to help others left a lasting impression on Malik and everyone who knew the man. Similarly, our actions can have a lasting impact on our friends, family, and community. By choosing to do good, we can help others to become doers of good.

Seeking Forgiveness: The Story of Tha'labah Ibn Abd al-Rahman

Once upon a time, there was a youth named Tha'labah ibn Abd al-Rahman, who lived in the city of Medina. Tha'labah was a kind-hearted person who had recently converted to Islam and loved to help the Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

One day, the Prophet (SAW) asked Tha'labah to run an errand for him. As Tha'labah was walking, he accidentally saw a woman bathing, which made him feel very guilty. He was afraid that Allah would be displeased with him and that the Prophet (SAW) would find out about his mistake. Feeling scared and ashamed, Tha'labah ran away to the mountains between Makkah and Madinah.

Tha'labah stayed hidden in the mountains for forty days. The Prophet (SAW) noticed his absence and became worried. One day, the angel Jibril came to the Prophet and said, "O Muhammad! Your Lord sends you greetings and tells you that someone from your Ummah is seeking refuge in the mountains."

The Prophet (SAW) then asked two of his companions, Umar Ibn Al-Khattab and Salman Al-Farisi, to go and find Tha'labah. They searched the mountains and met a shepherd who told them about a young man who always cry out in the night saying: "I wish my soul would be taken away so I wouldn't have to face judgment."

When they found Tha'labah, he was still crying and feeling very ashamed. Umar hugged him and assured him that the Prophet (SAW) wanted to see him. Tha'labah was very scared and asked if the Prophet (SAW) knew about his sin. Umar told him that the Prophet (SAW) had asked about him and wanted him to return.

When Tha'labah finally met the Prophet (SAW), he was so overwhelmed that he fainted. The Prophet (SAW) gently woke him and asked what had kept him away. Tha'labah admitted his mistake and his fear. The Prophet (SAW) then taught Tha'labah a beautiful prayer:

وَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ يَقُولُ رَبَّنَا آئِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ
النَّارِ ﴿٢٠١﴾

"Our Lord, give us good in this world and good in the Hereafter, and save us from the punishment of the Fire." (Qur'an 2:201)

Tha'labah felt comforted by the Prophet (SAW)'s words and went back to his home. Sadly, he became very ill and after eight days, Salman informed the Prophet (SAW) that Tha'labah was dying.

The Prophet (SAW) went to see Tha'labah, he found him very weak. He (SAW) placed his head on his lap but Tha'labah tried to move his head away. He told the Prophet that he felt unworthy to rest his head in the Prophet (SAW)'s lap because of his sins.

Then the Prophet (SAW) asked how Tha'labah is feeling. He told the Prophet (SAW) that he felt as if ants were crawling between his bones, and he wished for Allah's forgiveness. Just then, the angel Jibril came again with a message from Allah. He said:

"O Muhammad! Your Lord sends you greetings and tells you that were this my servant to come to with sins as great as the earth, I would still forgive him."

The Prophet (SAW) informed Tha'labah what angel Jibril told him and upon hearing this, Tha'labah's heart was at peace. He shouted with joy and then passed away, knowing that Allah had forgiven him.

Come to think of it, Tha'labah only saw what he was supposed not to see and it happened not intentionally but by mistake. Today, children and adults deliberately look at what they are not supposed to look at and continue to commit sins by looking at those things.

It is important to reflect on the story of Tha'labah and strive to become more God-fearing, knowing that Allah sees us and knows all about our actions, whether open or hidden.

Let's discuss...

1. The Importance of Repentance

Tha'labah made a mistake and felt really bad about it. Instead of ignoring it, he asked for forgiveness from Allah. This shows that when we make mistakes, it's important to seek forgiveness and repent.

2. Allah's Endless Forgiveness

Tha'labah was scared that Allah wouldn't forgive him, but Allah's message was clear: no matter how big our mistakes, Allah's forgiveness is even bigger. This teaches us that we should never lose hope, because Allah is always ready to forgive us if we ask sincerely.

3. Being Kind Like the Prophet (SAW)

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) showed great kindness to Tha'labah. He (SAW) was worried about him and welcomed him back with love. This shows us that we should be kind and supportive to our friends and family, especially when they are feeling down.

4. Facing Your Fears

Tha'labah was scared of facing the Prophet (SAW) and confessing his mistake that he hid in the mountains for forty days. But when he finally faced the Prophet (SAW), he found forgiveness and understanding. This teaches us that facing our fears is better than running away from them, and it can lead to solving our problems.

5. Community Support

The Prophet (SAW) involved Umar and Salman in searching for Tha'labah, showing that he was not alone in his struggles. Having supportive friends and mentors can help us navigate our challenges and find our way back when we feel lost.



THE END...



See you in Series 2
Assalam Alaykum,
Bye for now!

