

## **Summary Friday Sermon 17 September 2021**

**Delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Al-Khamis (a.b.a.)**

After Tashahhud, Ta'awwaz and the recitation of Surah Al-Fatehah, Huzur-e-Anwar said: we are discussing the era of Hazrat Umar (ra). Today I will speak about the Battle of Yarmuk.

After the Romans had been defeated in Damascus and Homs, the Roman king gathered all his leaders in the city of Antakya (Antioch) and asked them, "The Arabs have a smaller army and lesser equipment, yet they still keep defeating you. What is the reason?" They had no answer and bowed their heads in shame. At this point an old man who was present said, "The reason for this is because the Arabs have a much better character than us. They pray during the nights and they fast during the day. They don't act cruelly towards others and they meet each other with good manners. On the other hand, we drink and perform bad deeds. We also treat people cruelly. This is the reason that they have the resolve, passion and courage to fight while we lack all these."

At the summons of the Roman king, a huge army gathered in Antakya. At that time Hazrat Abu Obaidah (ra) was the commander of the Muslim armies. He decided to leave Homs and gather in Damascus. Before leaving Homs, Hazrat Abu Obaidah (ra) ordered that all tax that was taken from the resident Christians and Jews would be returned to them because the tax was taken for the purpose of protecting them. Since they (the Muslims) were leaving the city they would not be able to do so and thus do not have a right to that tax. Not just in Homs, all other cities should return the tax. It is recorded in History that the Jews and the Christians were very impressed by this, to the extent that they prayed that the Muslims should win the wars. They wished that they would return and take over the government of their city.

After arriving in Damascus, Hazrat Abu Obaidah (ra) informed Hazrat Umar (ra), Khalifatul Muslimeen, so Hazrat Umar (ra) encouraged the Muslims to take part in this battle and he sent an additional army towards Hazrat Abu Obaidah (ra). Hazrat Khalid bin Walid (ra) and Hazrat Umrooh bin al-Aus (ra) also arrived there with their armies. When the battle started, it became obvious that the Romans would be defeated. At that point the Romans decided to bribe the Muslims with money and get them to agree to return. So they sent an envoy

towards the Muslims by the name of George. He came to the Muslims and was greatly impressed by their resolve and state of peace. This messenger asked Hazrat Abu Obaidah (ra) what he believed with regards to Prophet Jesus (as). Hazrat Abu Obaidah (ra) recited the verses from the Holy Quran. The translation:

‘O People of the Book, exceed not the limits in your religion, and say not of Allah anything but the truth. Verily, the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, was only a Messenger of Allah and a fulfilment of His word which He sent down to Mary, and a mercy from Him. So believe in Allah and His Messengers, and say not ‘They are three.’ Desist, it will be better for you. Verily, Allah is the only One God. Far is it from His Holiness that He should have a son. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. And sufficient is Allah as a Guardian.’ [The Holy Qur’an, 4:172]

‘Surely, the Messiah will never disdain to be a servant of Allah, nor will the angels near unto God; and whoso disdains to worship Him and feels proud, He will gather them all to Himself.’ [The Holy Qur’an, 4:173]

When the messenger George heard these verses he said, “I bear witness that all that has been said about Hazrat Isa (ra) is correct and I bear witness that your Prophet is true” and he accepted Islam. Although he did not want to return, Hazrat Abu Obaidah (ra) asked him to go back along with Hazrat Khalid (ra). The next day Hazrat Khalid bin Walid (ra) went to the Romans to treat with them. The Roman leaders once again attempted to bribe them with wealth but this was to no end. After this, battle continued and eventually the Muslims won the battle.