



## Summary Friday Sermon 19 Aug 2022 Delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba)

After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwuz* and *Surah al-Fatihah*, His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) said that he would continue mentioning incidents from the life of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), particularly regarding advancements towards Syria.

His Holiness (aba) said that once the forces of rebellion had been extinguished and Islamic rule was established, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) thought that he should now turn his attention towards international forces that sought to create difficulties for Islam. He decided that he would first focus on Syria. In this regard Hazrat Shurahbil (ra) narrated a dream to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) in which he saw Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) become victorious and sit on a throne in one of the fortresses. In the dream, there was also a man who came to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) and recited *Surah Al-Nasr* to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra). Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) said that this dream was also a foretelling of his demise. The Muslim army will initially face difficulties but eventually succeed and be victorious.

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) gathered the senior Companions and informed them of his intention to send the Muslims army towards Syria and consulted with them regarding the matter. Hazrat Umar (ra) said that he had been intending to discuss this very matter with Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) and agreed with the idea. Subsequently, the other senior Companions from both the *Muhajireen* and the *Ansar* all agreed with Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) and pledged to follow and obey him wholeheartedly.

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) asked Hazrat Bilal (ra) to call out and tell the Muslims to set out towards Syria, under the leadership of Hazrat Khalid bin Sa'eed (ra). Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) also sent a letter to the Muslims of Yemen encouraging them to come forward and fight for the sake of Allah. Hazrat Anas (ra) was sent with this letter, and returned to Madinah with the good news of their imminent arrival.

His Holiness (aba) said that when Hazrat Khalid bin Sa'eed (ra) reached Taima, the Syrians learned of the large Muslim army that was forming, and thus began making their won preparations as well. He wrote about this to Hazrat Abu Bakr

(ra), who replied saying that he should remain steadfast and continue forwards, whilst seeking help from Allah.

At one point, Hazrat Khalid bin Sa'eed (ra) defeated an army of Syrians under the leadership of Bahan, who then escaped towards Damascus.

His Holiness (aba) said that as Hazrat Khalid bin Sa'eed (ra) advanced, he wrote to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) for further reinforcements, upon which Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) formed another army and sent towards Khalid bin Sa'eed (ra) with the advice that Hazrat Khalid bin Sa'eed (ra) should continue advancing, but not so much that he could easily be attacked from behind.

Upon hearing of the extra army, Hazrat Khalid bin Sa'eed (ra) was overjoyed, and in this joy he sought to attack a large Syrian army, and in doing so, forgot the advice of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) not to advance to the degree that he could easily be attacked from behind. The Syrian army encircled Hazrat Khalid bin Sa'eed (ra), and a lot of Muslims were martyred by the Syrian army. When Hazrat Khalid (ra) learned this, he left the area, causing many others to disperse as well.

His Holiness (aba) said that Hazrat Ikrimah (ra) who had arrived stayed firm and ensured that the Syrians did not follow behind Hazrat Khalid bin Sa'eed (ra). When Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) learned of this, he was very displeased. Later, Hazrat Khalid bin Sa'eed (ra) sought forgiveness from Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra).

Despite this, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was not deterred and began preparing more armies to go to Syria. As such, four large armies were prepared, the first of which was under the leadership of Yazid bin Abi Sufyan. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) encouraged the Muslim army to remain strong and steadfast. He instructed him to ensure the offering of prayers with great fervour.

His Holiness (aba) said that the second of the four armies was led by Hazrat Shurahbil bin Hasanah (ra), who was among the foremost Muslims. He was deployed by Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) three days after the departure of Hazrat Yazid. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) said that he should remember the same advice which he had given to Hazrat Yazid, and additionally gave further guidance, such as ensuring to offer prayers on time and to offer funeral prayers, among other things. Hazrat Shurahbil (ra) was sent to ultimately reach Busra in Syria.

His Holiness (aba) said that the third of the four armies was sent under Hazrat Abu Ubaidah bin Jarrah (ra), who was among the ten Companions who had been given the glad tidings of Paradise by the Holy Prophet (sa). Hazrat Abu Ubaidah (ra) was sent towards Hims, which was near Damascus in Syria. Along

the way, he passed by a tent city in Balqa, with whom he reached a treaty of peace.

His Holiness (aba) gave details of a recent martyr, by the name of Naseer Ahmad, son of Abdul Ghany. His Holiness (aba) spoke of his services for he Jamaat and announced of his prayers in absentia.