

The guidance of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was the best and most complete guidance. Ibn al-Qayyim (رَحْمَةُ اللهِ) said:

“The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was the most generous of the people in giving what he possessed as charity, and he would never deem anything that he gave for Allāh too great or too insignificant.

No one ever asked him for anything he possessed except that he gave it to them, whether it was great or small. He gave things away like a person who did not fear poverty. Open-handedness and charity were the most beloved things to him. His delight and happiness to give something was greater than the joy of the receiver, when he receives [a gift]. He was the most generous of people with good, and [the generosity of] his right hand was like a blowing wind.

If he came across someone needy, he would give them preference over his own self, sometimes with his food and other times with his clothing.

He would diversify the way he gave his charity and his gifts. Sometimes he would give gifts. Sometimes through charity. Sometimes through presents. Sometimes he would buy something and give the seller both the goods and payment, as he did with the camel he purchased from Jābir.

Sometimes he would borrow something as a loan and then return more [than he borrowed], something superior and something greater. Sometimes he would buy something and give more than its real value. Sometimes he would

accept a present and repay it with something more valuable or something many times superior.

All the above was done out of his kindness, and to diversify the forms of charity and benevolence in every way possible.

His charity and benevolence was displayed in what he possessed, his disposition and words. He would give whatever he possessed; he would command others with charity, encourage them to do this and call to this through his disposition and words.

If a miserly individual saw him, his (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) state would call that person to be generous and charitable. Whoever mingled with him, accompanied him and witnessed his guidance would not be able to stop himself from kindness and generosity.

His guidance (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) called to benevolence, charity and good. Due to this, he was the happiest of people, and the purest and softest of them in heart. Verily, charity and doing good have an amazing effect in the attainment of happiness.”¹

¹ *Zād al-Ma‘ād* of Ibn al-Qayyim (2/21-22).