

Brothers and sisters in Islam, friends, neighbors dearly respected guests. On this day, the ^{27th} ~~20th~~ of May in the year 2023, equivalent to the 30th day of Shawwal 1444 years after the migration of the Prophet Muhammad to Al Madinah, we are gathered here today to witness and celebrate the union and ^{walimah} ~~marriage~~ of Glenn Taylor Miller and ^{Saqib Chowdhury} ~~Huda~~ ^{Manaal Tanweer} ~~Shaheen Khan~~.

What a wonderful occasion for us to congregate, celebrate the union of ^{Saqib} Taylor and ^{Manaal} Huda, and be reminded about Our Creator Allah the Most High, as He tells us in the Noble Quran:

“O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women...” [4:1]

All of us gathered here today, share two common ancestors-Adam and Eve. As our Prophet Muhammad told us: “All of you are from Adam and Adam was made from clay” ... We are all familiar with the story of Adam and Eve, and how Allah created Eve from Adam’s rib and how they lived together as husband and wife through the good and the bad, the times of difficulties and the times of ease. Their example is, has been and will continue to be the first and one of the best examples of what a proper marriage should be-male and female...Which is the only type of marriage that is officially recognized and mentioned in the Quran, the Sunnah, the Torah, and the Gospels of Jesus...

Marriage between male and female is one of our Creator's great laws and legislations. It aids males and females in practicing their religion, it aids males and females to remain chaste, free of diseases, children born out of wedlock. Marriage safeguards our communities from moral degeneracy, and protects males and females from fornication, affairs, and prohibited relationships between males and females. Marriage aids males and females to lower their gazes and control their natural

desires. Marriage provides a permissible outlet to fulfill those natural desires, it is a means to have legitimate offspring and aids males and females to lead a life of tranquility, mercy, and compassion together, as Allah tells us in the Quran.

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ
مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ٢١

And one of our Creator's signs is that he created for you spouses from amongst yourselves, so that you may find comfort in them. And he has placed between you compassion and mercy. Surely I this are signs for people who reflect."

Huda and Glenn Taylor, did you know that before you two met, that Allah already had decreed and planned that you two would be married and that you would be soul mates? So as an advice to you two and to all of our guests, those who have been married for years and those who are newly married, there are two important pillars to a successful marriage that our Lord mentioned in this beautiful verse.

Love and Mercy, compassion and forgiveness, are the pillars and signposts for a successful, prosperous and fruitful marriage my dearly beloved brothers and sisters, guests and neighbors. Having love for each other, showing compassion and empathy to one another is what brings the spouses closer together. Being merciful with one another, overlooking each others shortcomings, pardoning each other's mistakes, and intentionally ignoring some of our spouses deficiencies is what prevents spouses from growing apart, arguing, and separating.

So love and mercy is the balance, sometimes situations will occur that one of the spouses needs to be more loving and compassionate with the other. While other times some circumstances may come about that

requires showing more mercy to the significant other. This is the balance that we must try to keep to continue to have successful marriages and happy lives together as spouses.

Loving ones spouse and being merciful with them will bring them closer together, like the closeness of a garment to one's skin. Husband's and wives, if they are practicing love and mercy together, will provide protection, comfort, warmth, and covering for one another, as our Lord mentions in the Quran:

أَحِلَّ لَكُمْ لَيْلَةَ الصِّيَامِ الرَّفَثُ إِلَى نِسَائِكُمْ هُنَّ لِبَاسٌ لَكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ لِبَاسٌ لَهُنَّ ۗ

It has been made permissible for you to be intimate with your wives during the nights preceding the fast. Your spouses are a garment for you as you are for them.

Glenn Taylor Miller and Huda Shaheen Khan, my advice to you both is to ponder over this verse, reflect over it's meaning. Be as a garment to your spouse by protecting them from all types of harm, physical, mental, and spiritual; be as a garment to your spouse by providing warmth for them, enlightening and bringing peace and tranquility to each other's minds, bodies and souls.

Glenn Taylor, as a Muslim man, you should take the Prophet Muhammad as your best example in how to be a good husband, read his biography, read his sunnah, learn about how he dealt with and treated his spouses. The Prophet Muhammad was never violent or aggressive with his spouses. He never complained about their food. When asked about what he would do in his house: His wives would say: he was always helping us with chores when he was at home. He always spoke to his wives using kind words, wisdom, patience and intentionally overlooking their deficiencies and mistakes. He advised us as muslims: