

Session 3

Getting the Know the Camel

Part 1: The Camel Passage

In this session we are going to begin to learn the Camel method. This is not just a theory about how you might be able to talk to a Muslim; this is a proven method that I and many others have used time again to actually begin to talk to Muslim about Jesus. The Camel is a method in which we used the Koran as a bridge or a beginning point to present truth about Jesus to Muslims. Remember, that the Koran is made up of 140 Surahs (SURAH- a chapter- like division of the Qur'an) which are divisions similar our chapter divisions in the Bible. The surah has verse divisions just like in the Bible.

Muslims call a verse Ayyah, (Ayya h- a verse –like division of a surah) each of this surah has a name, when will we focusing on one particular surah named surah al-Imran, it is the third surah in the Qur'an. So when talking to a Muslim it is best to refer to it by its name surah al-Imran. But you can refer to it by a number as well and he would be able to find it. As in this case it is surah three.

First I want you to see what this passage in the Qur'an says about Jesus, keep in mind this Qur'an was written in Arabic, so the name would be pronounced in their way in Arabic. For instance, Jesus is called Isa in the Qur'an, (Isa-is the Arabic way to say Jesus. Some of other examples of these are Ibrahim for Abraham, Nuh for Noah, Musa for Moses, Dawuud for David, and Salomon for Solomon. Biblical names in Arabic so und a little different, just they do in other language, Muslims call Jesus Isa, al-Moesia, which means Jesus the messiah , or Jesus the Christ. Mary is called Merriam.

“Read and Respond” to surah al-Imran 3:42-55 in the Camel Rider’s Journal pages 43-46.

Part 2: Principles Attitude

We felt the best way for you to begin to learn the Camel method would be to actually see it done. So we put together a **dramatization of an actual inquirer** using the Camel method, the response is based on an actual face to face discussion with Muslims in Asia. There are two guiding principles to keep in mind in using the Camel.

1. Focus in Jesus

First, focus on Jesus. In the mind of a Muslim, Jesus is a prophet. And so is Mohammed, Mohammed is up here, and Jesus is down here. What we want to do is not to run down Mohammed, but rather to lift up Jesus. If we lift up Jesus, what happened to Mohammed? So if all possible don't even mention the name Mohammed, to say anything derogatory about Mohammed at very least takes the focus off Jesus, and could very be dangerous. Remember Jesus said, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men to myself."

2. Focus on what the Qur'an actually says

Second principle is to encourage your Muslim friend to focus on what the Qur'an actually says. Not what is heard of being taught or what the **Hadi** says. As you use the Camel method, always remember this, keep a gentle spirit. Muslims tend to be very proud people, it will not be effective if you come preaching to them, or come to them in a condescending way. So keep a gentle spirit, ask questions and allow God to open their minds to the truth.

DO

"Camel Reflections" on page 46 in the Camel Rider's Journal.

Part 3: Camel method Dramatization

John: my name is John.

Mohammed: I'm Mohammed, is there some ways I can help you?

John: oh, yes, you can. I've been reading the Qur'an, and I found some amazing things in surah al- Imran, Ayyahs 42-55. Could you get a copy of Qur'an and read that to me so that I could ask you some questions about it?

Mohammed: what do these Ayyahs speak about?

John: they speak about Isa.

Mohammed: oh, yes. Isa, the prophet. And what is your question?

John: well, um. I have several questions. Could you read the passage? It would help me to remember my questions.

Mohammed: ok! ((Mohamed takes a Koran, both of them sit on the ground.))Now, which passage was that?

John: surah al-Imran.

Mohammed: which Ayyahs?

John: 42 to 55. But could you please read Ayyahs 42 to 47 first?

Mohammed: *and when the angel said:" o Miriam! Truly Allah has chosen you, and made you pure, and preferred you above the women of creation. O Miriam! Be obedient to your Lord, prostrate yourself and bow with those who bow. This is the tidings of things hidden. We reveal it unto you (Muhammad) . You were not present with them when they cast lost to know which of them should be the guardian of Miriam, nor were you present with them when they quarreled. (And remember) when the angels said: O Miriam! Truly Allah gives you glad tidings of a word from Him, whose name shall be Masih (Messiah) Isa, son of Miriam, illustrious in this world and the Hereafter, and he will be one of those brought near to Allah. He will speak unto mankind in his cradle and in manhood, and he is of the righteous. She said: My Lord! How shall I have a child when no man has touched me? He said: So it will be. Allah creates what He will. If He decrees a thing, He says unto it only: Be and it is.*

Mohammed: so, what is your question?

John: well, in Ayyah 55, the Qur'an says that Isa is the word from Him; Isa is called a word Allah, what does that mean?

Mohammed: Isa was an exactly a prophet from Allah; he was sent from Allah; to bring the words of Allah to the Israel.

John: so, Isa was a prophet from Allah?

Mohammed: yes, we believe in Isa also. We believe in all the prophets, but the Mohammed is the final prophet. Now, we must listen to him.

John: but, there seems to be something very different about Isa here, were all their prophets Allah told them or what to say and they said it, they spoke the words of Allah, but here it says that Isa did not speak the words of Allah, but he himself is the word from Allah. This word from Allah had a body; he had a name, Isa. Have you ever heard a word "Rohulah"?

Mohammed: Yes, Isa is called Rohulah.

John: I have heard Muslims called Isa Rohulah. I read another Ayyahs that help me understand why they called him Rohulah. Could you read Surrah 21:91, I think that is Surrah Nabhi.

Mohammed: *And she who was chaste, therefore we breathed into her of our spirit and made her and her son a token for all peoples.*

John: Isa is called Rohullah, which means the spirit of Allah, because Isa was conceived when Allah breath his spirit into Miriam. So, according to the Qur'an Allah spoke and Isa was conceived. Allah breathes his spirit into Miriam, and she conceives Isa.

Mohammed: yes, that is true.

John: The Qur'an also tells Isa, the Masih which means Messiah. It's that his name shall be Messiah Isa. Do you know what the Messiah means?

Mohammed: I'm not sure exactly what it means.

John: well, you know before the scriptures, the Taurat, Zabur and Injil.

Mohammed: Yes I do.

John: in the Torah, Zabur, Allah promised his people that he would send them Messiah, this Messiah was to be a savior or deliverer, it is a very special word that means God's appointed one. Now, according to the Qur'an and the Injil, the Messiah that Allah promised was Isa.

Mohammed: yes, the Qur'an says Isa is Messiah.

John: in Ayyah 46, it says, Isa was righteous, did Isa ever sin? Did he ever disobey Allah or do the wrong thing?

Mohammed: no, Isa never sinned.

John: the Injil said the same thing, it's that Isa never sinned, he always

completely obeyed Allah.

Mohammed: but, none of the prophets ever sinned.

John: but Isa was very righteous, the Injil says that Isa was tempted at all points as we are. Yet He did not sin, when he fasted, he fasted 40 days and 40 nights eating nothing. He has never married and he was very poor. He chose to spend his life going about and doing good, helping people and teaching people about Allah. Isa never killed anyone, in fact, he taught us to love others, even the enemies. He taught us to do good to others and even to those who hate us.

Mohammed: yes, Isa was very righteous.

John: in Ayyah 49, what does the Qur'an say about the birth of Isa?

Mohammed: Mary was a virgin, Isa was born of virgin.

John: so, Isa had no earthly father.

Mohammed: that's true.

John: why was Isa born without an earthly father?

Mohammed: I'm not sure. I have never been really taught about it.

John: there have been billions of people born into this world, some of them even holy prophets of Allah; yet all of them had an earthly mother, and an earthly father. Why all of these billions of people were only Isa born without an earthly father?

Mohammed: as the holy Qur'an says, Allah does whatever he wills. I know that Allah gives his special sign to confirm each of his holy prophets. This must have been the special sign of Allah who confirm that Isa was his holy prophet.

John: that's interesting. But we know there was another prophet who had no earthly father, he was Adam.

Mohammed: Oh, yes, that's true. Adam had no earthly father.

John: Allah created Adam, gave him life and put him in the garden. Adam could talk to God and be with him, because Adam was righteous. He had never disobeyed Allah, and then both the Qur'an and the Taurat tell us that Adam disobeyed Allah, he ate the fruit that Allah had forbidden him to eat. Allah sent Adam out of garden, for one act of disobedience, Adam was sent out of the presence of Allah in the garden, and he could never go back, none of his descendants could ever go back into the garden either. Something happened in Adam when he disobeyed Allah, he was changed inside. Before, it had been easy for Adam to obey Allah, easy to do the right thing; but after his disobedience,

his heart was changed, his nature was changed. Now it's hard to obey Allah and do what is right, and we are all his descendants, we are all his blood line. So we are all like Adam, because we came from Adam. Let me prove that, do you have children?

Mohammed: yes, I have four children.

John: did you have to teach your children how to disobey?

Mohammed: no, they come by it very naturally.

John: so it was with all of us. in our hearts, we are bent away from Allah, it is hard to obey Allah in seek him. It is easy to turn way to disobey him. We are like Adam because we are from Adam, all of us like Adam because we came from him. We are from his blood line and had received his nature, so it was generation after generation after until we come to Isa. In Isa the line was cut, Isa did not come from Adam's blood line. Where did he come from? Allah spoke and Isa was conceived in Miriam, Allah breathes of his spirit and Isa was conceived in Miriam. According to the the Qur'an Isa came from Allah, Isa was very different from anyone else that ever born. Do you know any prophet as holy as Isa?

Mohammed: Isa was very holy.

John: Would you please read Ayyah 48-54 in surrah al-Imran?

Mohammed: *And He (Allah) will teach him the Scripture and wisdom, and the Torah and the Injil. And will make him a messenger to the children of Israel saying: Lo, I come unto you with a sign from you Lord. Lo, I fashion for you out of clay the likeness of a bird, and I and I breathe into it and it is a bird by Allah's leave. I will heal him who was born blind and the leper, and I raise the dead, by Allah's leave. And o announces unto you what you eat and what you store in you houses. Surely herein is a sign for you, if you are to be believers. And I come confirming that which was before me of the Torah to make lawful to you some of that which was forbidden unto you, and I have come unto you with a sign from your Lord. So keep your duty to Allah and obey me. Truly, Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him. That is the straight path. But, when Isa knew of their disbelief, he said: "who will be Allah's helpers? We believe in Allah and bear witness that we have surrendered unto Him." Our Lord! We believe in that which you have revealed and follow Him whom you have sent; so write us down among those who witness to the truth. And they (disbelievers) schemed and Allah schemed against them; and Allah is the best of schemers.*

Mohammed: What are your questions here?

John: in Ayyah 49, what things did isa do?

Mohammed: He healed the one born blind, and he healed the leper, he raised the dead man.

John: Those would be amazing miracles even today, with all the modern advances and science those who are genetic blind stay blind. Leprosy is a terrible disease that eats away the body, in Isa's days there was no cure for leprosy, but Isa touched the blind man and the leper, and then they were healed. And of course there was still no cure for death, yet Isa raised the dead. Death is our greatest enemy. But Isa was given the power even over death.

Mohammed: But all of these things were only done by Allah's leave.

John: that is true. All things come from Allah. Nothing is done apart from His will, but Isa was given the power to do these things. He touched the sick, and they were healed. He spoke and the dead were raised. There in the last part of Ayyah 50, what does Isa tell us to do?

Mohammed: Let me seek Ayyah 50. Isa says, "do your duty to Allah and obey me."

John: So, here in the Qur'an, Isa tells us to obey him.

Mohammed: Yes, that is what it says.

John: as I said, I have been reading the Qur'an, as far as I know this is the only command of Isa in the Qur'an, he commands us to obey him. But his commands are not in the Qur'an, they are in the Injil. Let me ask you a question. Suppose I ask you to do three things for me tomorrow, but then I cut out and left without telling you what those three things are, would you be able to do those things for me?

Mohammed: No.

John: why not?

Mohammed: because I don't know what they are.

John: that is true. In the Qur'an, Isa has commanded us to do our duty to Allah and obey him. But his commands, the stories of his life and his teachings are written in the Injil. How can you do your duty to Allah and obey Isa if you don't know what he says? Unless you know what is in the Injil, how can you know what he has commanded you to do? As I read the Qur'an, I found that we should obey Isa. Since you've been reading the Injil to find out what he has commanded you to do, so that you can do your duty to Allah? If I gave you a copy of the Torah and the Injil, would you like to read it and find out what Isa has commanded you to do?

Mohammed: Yes, I think I would like to read it.

John: great! I'll give you a copy when we're done. So, Isa healed the

leper and one born blind and he raise the dead. Do you know of any other prophets who was as powerful as Isa?

Mohammed: Isa did the greatest miracles of the prophets.

John: there was one more Ayyah that I found interesting. Would you please read Ayyah 55?

Mohammed: *And remember when Allah said, "Oh Isa! I am gathering you and causing you to ascend to Me and am cleansing you of those who disbelieve and am setting those who follow you above those who disbelieve till the Day of Resurrection. Then you will return to Me and I shall judge between you in that in which you used to differ."*

John: Allah gave a very special promise to those who obey Isa, didn't He? He said he will raise those who follow Isa above those who disbelieve all the way to the day of resurrection. The day of resurrection is the Day of Judgment, isn't it?

Mohammed: it is the last day.

John: according to this Ayyah here in the Qur'an, where is Isa right now?

Mohammed: He is in heaven.

John: Allah says that he has raised Isa to himself. So, Isa is in heaven with Allah.

Mohammed: Yes, that's what it says.

John: if you want to get in to my house, you will need help. Who would you want to help you get there? Would you want someone who has never been to my house or would you want me to help you get there?

Mohammed: of course I would rather have you show me the way.

John: I want to go to heaven, and you want to go to heaven, but I'm not able to get there, I need help. According to the Qur'an, Isa is in heaven with the Allah and he knows the way. So, which prophet is best able to help us to get to heaven?

Mohammed: I must think about this.

John: well, thank you for talking with me about the Qur'an and taking the time to answer my questions. You've been very kind.

Mohammed: I have been very glad to talk to you. come back again; we can talk more about these matters. Thank you!

John: Oh, here is that copy of the Torah and the Injil that I said I would give you.

Mohammed: thank you! I've heard about these books.

John: let me explain a little about them so you will better understand what they are about.

DO

"What did you observe?" page 47 in the Camel rider's journal

Part 4: The Three-Humped Camel

I want to introduce you someone, you've heard of a one humped camel, you've heard of a two humped camel. I want you to meet Al Imran, the third humped camel. His purpose is to help you remember the camel method outline. Now, Al camel is from a very big family, Al has 42 brothers and 55 sisters. Imaging, three humps, 42 brothers and 55 sisters.

Three, 42 to 55, Al has three humps. He has a Holy hump, he has a powerful hump and he has a heavenly hump. His holy hump covers Ayyah 42 to 47; it has within it three consecutive Ayyahs we must remember, 45, 46 and 47. There are three things we want to notice about (00:01:00) Isa in Ayyah 45, he is a word from Allah, he is Rohullah which means the spirit of Allah and he is Messiah. In Ayyah 46, Isa is very righteous. In Ayyah 47, Isa is born of virgin.

Next, he has powerful hump, it covers Ayyah 48 to 54 and has two consecutive Ayyahs within it we must remember, Ayyah 49 and 50. In Ayyah 49, it says he did miracles. He healed the leper, healed the blind man and raised the dead. In Ayaah 50, we find that our duty to Allah is to obey Isa.

The Third hump is the heavenly hump, it covers only one verse, verse 55 or Ayyah 55, Isa knows the way to heaven. So maybe Al Imran the three humped camel can help you remember the camel method outline a little better.

DO

“The three –humped camel” page 48 – 51 in the camel rider’s journal