Khutbah 2: Why Are We Neglecting Our Salah?

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First Khutbah — Arabic Opening

> **Innal hamda lillah,**
> **nahmaduhu wa nasta‘eenuhu wa nastaghfiruhu,**
> **wa na‘oodhu billahi min shuroori anfusina**
> **wa min sayyi’aati a‘maalina.**
>
> إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

> **Man yah-dihi-llahu falaa mudilla lah,**
> **wa man yud-lil falaa haadiya lah.**
>
> مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضْلِلْ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

> **Wa ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah,**
> **wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa rasooluh.**
>
> وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

> **Yaa ay-yuhal-ladheena aamanut-taqul-laha haqqa tu-qaa-tihi**
> **wa laa tamootunna illaa wa antum muslimoon.**
>
> يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

> **Yaa ayyuhan-naasu-ttaqu rabbakumul-ladhee khalaqakum min nafsin waahidah,**
>
> يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ،
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

wa khalaqa minhaa zawjahaa,
wa baththa minhumaa rijaalan katheeran wa nisaa’aa.

وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا، وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Wattaqullahal-ladhee tasaa’aloona bihi wal-arhaam.
Innallaha kaana ‘alaykum raqeebaa.

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Yaa ayyuhalladheena aamanu-ttaqullaha wa qooloo qawlan sadeedaa.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Yuslih lakum a‘maalakum wa yaghfir lakum dhunoobakum.

يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Wa man yuti‘illaha wa rasoolahu faqad faaza fawzan ‘azeemaa.

وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Ammaa ba‘d.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Fa inna asdaqal hadeethi kitaabullah,

فَإِنَّ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ،

▶ Listen to pronunciation

wa khayral hadyi hadyu Muhammadin sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam,

وَخَيْرَ الْهَدْيِ هَدْيُ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ،

▶ Listen to pronunciation

> **wa sharral umoori muh-dathaa-tuhaa,**
> **wa kulla muh-dathatin bid‘ah,**
> **wa kulla bid‘atin dalaalah,**
> **wa kulla dalaalatin fin-naar.**
>
> وَشَرَّ الْأُمُورِ مُحْدَثَاتُهَا، وَكُلَّ مُحْدَثَةٍ بِدْعَةٌ، وَكُلَّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ، وَكُلَّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

First Khutbah

My dear brothers in Islam,

I advise myself first, and then all of you, to have taqwa of Allah.

Fear Allah, be aware of Allah, and remember that one day we will stand before Him and answer for how we lived our lives.

Today's khutbah is about something that affects many Muslims.

Why are we neglecting our salah?

We believe in Allah. We believe in the Quran. We believe in the Day of Judgment. We know that salah is one of the five pillars of Islam.

Yet, how many of us are careless when it comes to our prayers?

How many of us delay our salah because we are busy?

How many of us regularly miss Fajr because we stayed awake too late?

And how many of us make time for almost everything in our lives, but struggle to make time for Allah?

My dear brothers in Islam, this is something we need to think about seriously.

Salah is not something Allah asks us to perform only when we have spare time.

It is not something we do only when life is going well.

Salah is an obligation upon every adult Muslim.

Allah says in Surah Taha, (verse 14):

“So worship Me and keep up the prayer so that you remember Me.”

Look at the purpose of salah.

Allah commands us to pray so that we remember Him.

Five times every day, Allah gives us the opportunity to leave the worries of this world behind and turn towards Him.

But what have we done?

We have allowed the things of this world to become more important than the One who created us.

We wake up for work, even when we are tired.

We arrive on time for appointments because we don't want to be late.

We make time to watch our favourite programmes, check our phones, and spend hours on things that bring us little benefit.

But when the time for salah arrives, we tell ourselves, “I'll pray later.”

And sometimes, later never comes.

My dear brothers in Islam, think about that for a moment.

If your employer expected you at work at a certain time, would you regularly arrive hours late without a good reason?

If you had an important appointment, would you simply ignore it?

Then why do we treat our appointment with Allah as though it is less important?

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, was asked which deed is most beloved to Allah.

He answered in Sahih al-Bukhari (Hadith 527):

“Prayer at its proper time.”

Notice that the Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, did not simply say prayer.

He spoke about performing it at its proper time.

This teaches us that WHEN we pray is also important.

And yet, many of us arrange our lives around everything except salah.

We fit our prayers around our work, our shopping, our entertainment, and our social lives.

But shouldn't we be arranging our lives around our prayers?

Of course, there are genuine difficulties. People become sick. People travel. Some circumstances make prayer difficult, and Islam provides allowances for these situations.

But being genuinely unable to pray at the usual time is very different from simply not making the effort.

My dear brothers in Islam, we must also understand how serious abandoning salah is.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, warned us in Sahih Muslim (Hadith 82b):

“Between man and Shirk and Kufr, is the abandonment of salat.”

This is a very serious warning.

The scholars have discussed the ruling on someone who abandons prayer, but they agree that deliberately neglecting this obligation is a grave matter.

Salah is not a small part of our religion.

It is one of its foundations.

Allah warns us in Surah Maryam, (verse 59):

“but there came after them generations who neglected prayer and were driven by their own desires.”

Think about these words.

They neglected their prayers and followed their desires.

Is this not something we see around us today?

People follow whatever makes them happy at that moment.

If they feel like praying, they pray.

If they don't feel like praying, they leave it.

If they are busy, prayer can wait.

If they are tired, prayer can wait.

But My dear brothers in Islam, worship is not based on whether we feel like doing it.

We obey Allah because He is our Lord, and because we know His commands are for our own good.

And salah is not simply an obligation.

Salah is also a blessing.

When life becomes difficult, where do we turn?

When we are worried about money, family problems, sickness, or something that is troubling our hearts, where do we find comfort?

We turn to Allah.

We stand before Him.

We bow before Him.

We place our foreheads on the ground and ask Him for help.

Think about the position of sujood.

A person may be wealthy or poor.

He may be young or old.

He may be respected by thousands of people or unknown to everyone.

But when he places his forehead on the ground before Allah, none of those things matter.

He is simply a servant asking his Lord for mercy.

And what a blessing it is to be able to turn to Allah five times every day.

My dear brothers in Islam, salah should also change the way we behave.

Allah tells us in Surah Al-Ankabut, (verse 45):

“prayer restrains outrageous and unacceptable behaviour.”

This means our prayers should help us stay away from wrongdoing.

A person who remembers Allah throughout the day should become more careful about what he says, what he watches, and how he treats others.

If we pray regularly but continue lying, cheating, backbiting, or treating people badly, then we need to look at the quality of our salah.

Are we praying with attention?

Are we thinking about the words we recite?

Or are we simply going through the movements so we can get back to whatever we were doing?

My dear brothers in Islam, we must not give up on salah because we struggle with sins.

We need salah to help us become better Muslims.

And we must not allow Shaytan to convince us that because we have missed so many prayers, there is no point in starting again.

That is exactly what Shaytan wants.

If you have been neglecting your salah, return to Allah today.

Ask Him for forgiveness.

Make a sincere effort to change.

Do not wait until Ramadan.

Do not wait until you become older.

Do not wait until something terrible happens in your life.

Because none of us knows how much time we have left.

One day, we will leave this world.

Our work will continue without us.

Our businesses will continue without us.

Our families will carry on with their lives.

But our opportunity to pray, repent, and earn good deeds will have come to an end.

So ask yourself today:

If Allah were to take my soul tonight, would I be happy with the way I have treated my salah?

May Allah forgive us for the prayers we have neglected.

May Allah make us among those who establish their salah and protect it.

And may Allah allow us to meet Him while He is pleased with us, Ameen.

End of First Khutbah — Forgiveness

> **Aqoolu qawlee haadhaa,**
> **wa astaghfirullaha lee wa lakum,**
> **wa li saa'i-ril muslimeena min kulli dhanb.**
> **Fastaghfirooh, innahu huwal ghafoorur raheem.**
>
> أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا، وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

Sit briefly between the two khutbahs.

Second Khutbah — Arabic Opening

> **Alhamdulillahi rabbil ‘aalameen, was-salaatu was-salaamu ‘alaa ashrafil anbiyaa’i wal mursaleen, nabiyyinaa Muhammadin, wa ‘alaa aalihi wa sahbihi ajma‘een.**
>
> الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ، نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

> **Ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa rasooluh. Ammaa ba‘d.**
>
> أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

Second Khutbah

My dear brothers in Islam,

Again, I advise myself and all of you to have taqwa of Allah.

We have spoken about the importance of salah and the danger of neglecting it.

But now we need to ask ourselves a simple question.

What are we going to do about it?

It is easy to listen to a khutbah, agree with what is being said, and then return to our old habits.

But a reminder should lead us to change.

If you have been missing your prayers, make a decision today that you will take your salah seriously.

Start by making sure you know the prayer times.

Set reminders on your phone.

Plan your day so you have enough time to pray.

If you regularly struggle with Fajr, look at what time you are going to bed.

If you are staying awake until late at night watching videos or scrolling through your phone, then perhaps that is the first habit you need to change.

And My dear brothers in Islam, don't forget about our families.

If you are a father, encourage your children to pray.

Let them see you praying.

When salah time arrives, put your phone down and lead by example.

We cannot expect our children to take salah seriously if they see that we don't take it seriously ourselves.

And teach them with kindness.

Help them understand why we pray, rather than simply telling them to pray.

Let them grow up knowing that salah is not a punishment or a burden.

It is a connection between them and Allah.

My dear brothers in Islam, if you are already praying five times every day, then Alhamdulillah.

But do not become comfortable with simply performing the movements.

Work on improving your salah.

Try to understand what you are reciting.

Slow down.

Think about the fact that you are standing before Allah.

And if you are struggling with your prayers, remember that Allah's mercy is greater than your sins.

Turn back to Him sincerely.

Do not allow yesterday's mistakes to stop you from doing what is right today.

The next salah could be the beginning of a completely different life.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One day, the last salah of our lives will arrive.

We will not know that it is our last.

We may think we have many more years ahead of us.

But only Allah knows when our time will end.

So let us protect our salah while we still have the opportunity.

Let us become people who arrange their lives around their prayers, rather than people who only pray when they have spare time.

May Allah make salah beloved to our hearts.

May Allah guide those who have abandoned their prayers back to Him.

May Allah help our children and families establish their salah.

And may Allah allow our final deeds to be among our best deeds, Ameen.

Closing Dua

> **In-nal-laaha wa ma-laaa-e-ka-ta-hoo yu-sal-loo-na 'alan-na-bee,**
> **yaaa ay-yu-hal-la-thee-na aa-ma-noo sal-loo 'a-lay-hi wa sal-li-moo tas-lee-maa.**
> إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ، يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا.
>
> ▶ Listen to pronunciation

Allah humma Sali wa salam wa barik ala Muhammadin wa ala alley Muhammad

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Allahummaghfir lil-muslimeena wal-muslimaat, wal-mu'mineena wal-mu'minaat, al-ahyaa'i minhum wal-amwaat.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Rabbanaa zalamnaa anfusanaa, wa illam taghfir lanaa wa tarhamnaa, lanakoonanna minal-khaasireen.

رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Rabbanaa aatinaa fid-dunyaa hasanah, wa fil-aakhirati hasanah, wa qinaa 'adhaaban-naar.

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Final Khutbah Closing

Ibaadallah,
innallaha ya’muru bil-‘adli
wal-ihsaani
wa eetaa’i dhil-qurbaa,
wa yanhaa ‘anil fahshaa’i wal-munkari wal-baghy.
Ya‘izukum la‘allakum tadhakkaroon.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ، وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation

Wa akhiroo da3wanal humdoolilahi rubul Alameen.
Wa Aqimis-salaah.

وَآخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ. وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ.

▶ Listen to pronunciation