Are We Truly Preparing for Jannah?

Standard version · Free English Friday sermon

Open interactive reader · Download Standard PDF · Download Emergency PDF

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. ▶ Audio

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا.

Man yah-dihi-llahu falaa mudilla lah,
wa man yud-lil falaa haadiya lah. ▶ Audio

مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضْلِلْ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

Wa ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah,
wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan ‘abduhu wa rasooluh. ▶ Audio

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

Yaa ay-yuhal-ladheena aamanut-taqul-laha haqqa tu-qaa-tihi
wa laa tamootunna illaa wa antum muslimoon. ▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Yaa ayyuhan-naasu-ttaqu rabbakumul-ladhee khalaqakum min nafsin waahidah,
▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ،

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

وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا، وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً.

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

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

Yaa ayyuhalladheena aamanu-ttaqullaha wa qooloo qawlan sadeedaa. ▶ Audio

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا.

Yuslih lakum a‘maalakum wa yaghfir lakum dhunoobakum. ▶ Audio

يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ.

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

وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا.

Ammaa ba‘d. ▶ Audio

أَمَّا بَعْدُ.

Fa inna asdaqal hadeethi kitaabullah, ▶ Audio

فَإِنَّ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ،

wa khayral hadyi hadyu Muhammadin sallallahu ‘alayhi wa sallam, ▶ Audio

وَخَيْرَ الْهَدْيِ هَدْيُ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ،

wa sharral umoori muh-dathaa-tuhaa,
wa kulla muh-dathatin bid‘ah,
wa kulla bid‘atin dalaalah,
wa kulla dalaalatin fin-naar. ▶ Audio

وَشَرَّ الْأُمُورِ مُحْدَثَاتُهَا، وَكُلَّ مُحْدَثَةٍ بِدْعَةٌ، وَكُلَّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ، وَكُلَّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ.

First Khutbah — English

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 this life is temporary, but the life of the Hereafter will never end.

Today's khutbah is about something that every believer hopes to achieve.

Something greater than all the wealth, comfort and happiness this world can offer.

Entering Jannah.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Every Muslim hopes to enter Paradise.

We ask Allah for Jannah in our duas.

We speak about its beauty.

And we hope to be reunited there with those we love.

But there is an important question we need to ask ourselves.

Are we truly preparing for Jannah, or are we simply hoping to enter it?

My dear brothers in Islam,

Think about how much effort we put into achieving things in this world.

A young person spends years studying to build a career.

A businessman works long hours to make his business successful.

A family saves money for years to purchase a home.

We understand that achieving important goals requires effort.

But what about the greatest goal of all?

What about Jannah?

Sometimes, we spend more time planning a two-week holiday than preparing for the life that will last forever.

My dear brothers in Islam,

If Jannah is truly our greatest goal, then our actions should reflect that.

Allah says in Surah Ali Imran, (verse 133), that we should hurry towards His forgiveness and towards Paradise, whose width is that of the heavens and the earth, prepared for those who are mindful of Him.

Think about this command.

Allah does not tell us to remain careless and simply hope that everything will turn out well.

He calls us to seek His forgiveness and work towards the reward He has promised.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Allah has described Jannah as a place of unimaginable beauty and happiness.

A place without the suffering we experience in this world.

No sickness.

No fear of death.

No financial worries.

And no pain caused by losing those we love.

In Surah As-Sajdah, (verse 17), Allah tells us that nobody knows the joy that has been kept hidden for the righteous as a reward for their deeds.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, gave us another beautiful reminder.

In Sahih Muslim, (Hadith 2824a), he taught that Allah has prepared for His righteous servants blessings that no eye has seen, no ear has heard and no human heart has imagined.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Think about that.

We may have seen beautiful places.

We may have enjoyed wonderful moments with our families.

And we may have experienced happiness that we wished would never end.

But the blessings of Jannah are beyond anything we can imagine.

Nothing this world offers can compare with what Allah has prepared for the people of Paradise.

My dear brothers in Islam,

But Jannah is not simply about beautiful gardens, homes and rivers.

One of its greatest blessings is that Allah will be pleased with its people.

In Surah At-Tawbah, (verse 72), Allah promises believing men and women Paradise and beautiful homes.

And He tells us that His pleasure is greater still.

Think about that.

After all the struggles of this world, the greatest success is to receive Allah's pleasure.

To know that our Lord is pleased with us.

And to enjoy the reward He has prepared, without fearing that it will ever come to an end.

My dear brothers in Islam,

So how do we prepare for such a beautiful reward?

We begin by fulfilling our obligations towards Allah.

Our first priority must be our salah.

We cannot claim that Jannah is our greatest goal while treating our five daily prayers as unimportant.

We make time for work.

We make time for appointments.

And we make time for entertainment.

Surely, we should make time to stand before the One who created us.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Preparing for Jannah also means staying away from what Allah has forbidden.

We cannot deliberately continue cheating people, earning haram money or treating our families cruelly while believing that these actions have no consequences.

We must make a sincere effort to obey Allah.

And when we fall into sin, we should repent rather than give up.

A believer is not someone who never makes mistakes, but someone who continues returning to Allah.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We must also remember that preparing for Jannah is not only about acts of worship between ourselves and Allah.

It is also about how we treat other people.

A person may pray regularly but speak harshly to his parents.

He may fast every Ramadan but cheat his customers.

Or he may give charity while making his own family miserable through his behaviour.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Our religion teaches us that good character matters.

Be honest.

Be kind.

Fulfil your responsibilities.

And avoid hurting others.

If you have wronged someone, make an effort to put things right.

We should never allow the way we treat people to destroy the reward of our good deeds.

My dear brothers in Islam,

Another important part of preparing for Jannah is making use of our time.

Every day that passes is a day we will never get back.

We may have many years remaining.

Or our lives may end sooner than we expect.

Only Allah knows.

So do not continue delaying your repentance.

Do not keep promising that you will begin praying when you are older.

And do not wait until sickness arrives before appreciating your health.

The opportunity we have today may not be available tomorrow.

My dear brothers in Islam,

But we must also understand something very important.

We do not enter Jannah simply because we believe our deeds are good enough.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, explained in Sahih Muslim, (Hadith 2816), that nobody enters Paradise through their deeds alone, but through the mercy of Allah.

Even the Prophet, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, spoke of his need for Allah's mercy.

Think about this reminder.

We should never become proud of our worship.

We should never believe that performing a few good deeds makes us better than everyone else.

And we should never assume that Jannah is guaranteed to us.

We perform good deeds sincerely, seek forgiveness and place our hope in Allah's mercy.

My dear brothers in Islam,

At the same time, we must not lose hope because of our mistakes.

Perhaps someone listening today has neglected his prayers for years.

Perhaps he has committed serious sins.

Or perhaps he believes he has wasted too much of his life.

My dear brothers in Islam,

As long as we are alive, we still have an opportunity to change.

Turn back to Allah.

Ask Him for forgiveness.

Begin fulfilling your obligations.

And take sincere steps towards becoming a better Muslim.

Do not allow your past to prevent you from preparing for your future.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One day, everything we worked so hard to collect will remain behind.

Our homes.

Our cars.

Our businesses.

And our money.

But the faith and good deeds we sent ahead will matter when we stand before Allah.

So let us ask ourselves today:

Are we preparing for Jannah through our prayers?

Through our honesty?

Through our treatment of our families?

And through our willingness to repent?

Let us not spend our entire lives preparing for a temporary world while neglecting the life that will never end.

May Allah forgive our sins.

May Allah guide us towards deeds that earn His pleasure.

May Allah make us sincere in our worship.

And may Allah grant us Jannatul Firdaws through His mercy, Ameen.

End of First Khutbah — Asking for Forgiveness

Aqoolu qawlee haadhaa,
wa astaghfirullaha lee wa lakum,
wa li saa'i-ril muslimeena min kulli dhanb.
Fastaghfirooh, innahu huwal ghafoorur raheem. ▶ Audio

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا، وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.

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. ▶ Audio

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ، نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

Ash-hadu an laa ilaaha illallahu wahdahu laa shareeka lah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan 'abduhu wa rasooluh. Ammaa ba'd. ▶ Audio

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ.

Second Khutbah — English

My dear brothers in Islam,

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

We have spoken about Jannah and the importance of preparing for the Hereafter.

But now we need to ask ourselves:

What can we begin doing today to work towards Jannah?

My dear brothers in Islam,

The first thing we must do is protect our salah.

If you have been neglecting your prayers, make a sincere decision to change.

Organise your day around your obligations.

And remember that worshipping Allah is more important than the distractions that occupy our time.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The second thing we should do is make sincere repentance.

Every one of us has shortcomings.

We have said things we regret.

We have made mistakes.

And sometimes, we have knowingly disobeyed Allah.

But we should not allow those mistakes to become our future.

Ask Allah for forgiveness and make a genuine effort to change.

My dear brothers in Islam,

The third thing we can do is improve our character.

Speak kindly to your spouse.

Show patience towards your children.

Care for your parents.

Be honest in your business dealings.

And treat people fairly, even when doing so is difficult.

Sometimes, the greatest changes we need to make are not in the masjid, but in our own homes.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should also make time for regular good deeds.

Read some Quran.

Give charity according to your means.

Remember Allah throughout the day.

And help those who are struggling.

The Prophet Muhammad, Sallahu Alayhi wa Salam, taught us in Sahih al-Bukhari, (Hadith 6464), that among the deeds most beloved to Allah are those performed regularly, even when they are small.

Do not underestimate the value of small good deeds performed sincerely and consistently.

My dear brothers in Islam,

We should also help our families prepare for Jannah.

Teach our children about Allah.

Encourage them to pray.

Help them develop good character.

And make your home a place where Islam is practised with kindness and understanding.

Our greatest hope should not simply be that our children become successful in this world.

We should also hope that Allah guides them towards success in the Hereafter.

My dear brothers in Islam,

One day, our time in this world will come to an end.

The opportunities we have today will be gone.

But right now, we can still change.

We can still repent.

We can still worship Allah.

And we can still perform deeds that may benefit us in the Hereafter.

So let us leave this masjid determined to make Jannah our greatest goal.

Not simply something we speak about.

But something we sincerely work towards every day.

Because the greatest success is not what we achieve in this world, but being admitted into Jannah through the mercy of Allah.

May Allah forgive our past mistakes.

May Allah grant us sincerity and steadfastness.

May Allah guide our children and families.

May Allah make our good deeds heavy on the scales.

May Allah protect us from the punishment of Hellfire.

And may Allah reunite us with our families in Jannatul Firdaws, Ameen.

Closing Dua — Arabic Transliteration

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.
▶ Audio

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ، يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا.

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

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Final Khutbah Closing — Arabic Transliteration

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. ▶ Audio

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

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

وَآخِرُ دَعْوَانَا أَنِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ. وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ.