

Being steadfast on guidance - & mistakes in jumuah

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic on Friday, 5th February 2010. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

Islam is keen to guide the Muslim in every aspect of his life, large or small, so he might achieve happiness in both this life and the Hereafter. That is why in the end of verses that clarify, we find phrases like "God makes clear to you [His law], lest you go astray. And God is knowing of all things." [Al-Nisaa 4:176] and "Thus does God make clear to you His verses that you may be guided." [Al-Imran 3:103]. Teachings and legislations brought by Islam have the intent of showing us the path of guidance, integrity and stability in this life and success in the Hereafter. But this bounty will only be achieved by those who obey God and follow His legislation.

Know, oh Muslims, that the obedience to God is not measured by your looks and appearances but by its effect on you. The purpose of obedience is to increase your recognition of the truth and realise the reason for your existence in this life. It gets you habituated to follow the path of guidance, control your own desires and defeat the evil within your self and Satan. It gets you used to taste the joy of being close to God with your soul, living by His remembrance and your mind reflecting upon His might. That is why when someone asked the prophet (pbuh) to give him a complete and comprehensive answer about Islam he (pbuh) replied: "Say: I believe in God - and then be Steadfast". Indeed, obedience and being steadfast is not an easy thing as it requires you to struggle against your own self and against this life and its desires.

Oh Muslims,

Reflect upon the saying of God "The mosques of God are only to be maintained by those who believe in God and the Last Day and establish prayer and give Zakah and do not fear except God, for it is expected that those will be of the [rightly] guided." [Al-Tawbah 9:18]. Have you realised that if you combine your life between believing in God and the Last Day, establishing prayer, giving Zakah, fearing and being conscious of God then your life will be reformed, your way will be straight, you will be inspired with the right mindset and you will always be on the path of good, truth and guidance. So whoever does not find this in his/her self and whoever does not get this from his prayer, Zakah and other worships, should reflect on him/her self and check their situation because that verse was concluded by "for it is expected that those will be of the [rightly] guided". If your heart is directed to God with truthfulness and your limbs adhere to obeying God and being conscious of Him, then surely God Almighty will reward you for this intension and action with guidance and success.

The secret for resisting the forces of passion and desires and facing the plot of Satan is to obey God and abandon all selfish desires by patience for the sake of God. Life without any control, and following desires without any modesty or self restraint is not a life or character of a Muslim! -A Muslims who believes in God as his Lord, Islam as his religion and Muhammad (pbuh) as his messenger! It is within your nature to follow caprices and whims but the danger is when you get carried away following them, belittling the sanctities of God and get the courage to disobey Him. Every human being commit mistakes as no one is protected from sinning but if you stumble then get up and quickly turn back to God as God says "and good and do not follow the footsteps of Satan. Indeed, he is to you a clear enemy." [Al-Baqarah 2:168] and in another verse "... And those who, when they commit an immorality or wrong themselves [by transgression], remember God and seek forgiveness for their sins – and who can forgive sins except God? – and [who] do not persist in what they have done while they know." [Al-Imran 3:135].

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Second khutba

Among the mistakes people do at Juma'h prayer:

Oh Muslims,

Jum'ah is the weakly Eid of Muslims and the prophet (pbuh) used to show full care of this blessed day, he (pbuh) used to wash, wear the best of his clothes and put on some perfume in order to attend the prayer where people meet. Among the common mistakes on Jum'ah is that some people do not give special importance for the day by neglecting to show enough care and not preparing for it properly. It is well noticed that some people come to the mosque with a bad smell including sweat, and other bad odours which may come from clothes and socks which cause discomfort to other people. How can a Muslim belittle such a blessed day, the day of Jum'ah! And how can he not take into account the meeting of people to pray! The least thing for a Muslim to do is to check his cleanness, purity of his clothes and goodness of his smell. The prophet (pbuh) said: "Angels are harmed by the same thing that the son of Adam is harmed from".

The prophet (pbuh) forbade the one who eats onion or garlic from going straight to the mosque. Abdullah bin Umar narrated that the prophet (pbuh) said: "He who eats from this plant should not come near us until its odour has gone away" and in another hadith: "Whoever eats garlic or onion should keep away from our mosque or should remain in his house". Anas (may God be pleased with him) also narrated that the prophet (pbuh) said: "Whoever eats from this tree shall not pray with us" [Al-Bukhari]. So if everyone coming to pray Jum'ah straight from his work keeps a nice perfume with him and puts some on after ablution then he will be rewarded for following the tradition of the prophet (pbuh).

The prophet (pbuh) said: "Ghusl on Friday is obligatory (wajib) on every adult who has attained the age of puberty" and in another hadith: "whoever among you come to pray Jum'ah should perform Ghusl". Abu Hurairah narrated that the prophet (pbuh) said: "It is the duty of every Muslim to take a bath (at least) once every seven days, and to wash his head and his body." [Agreed upon]. So fear God oh Muslims and do not harm other Muslims or the angels and honour the rituals of God.