

Salaheddin Islamic Center
Jumma Khutbah
22 Rajab 1437
Corresponding to April 29, 16

مكانة المسجد في الإسلام

The Status of the Masjid in Islam

Given by:

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First Khutbah

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شَرِّهِ وَأَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا

فَإِنْ أَصْدَقُ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى وَأَحْسَنُ الْهَدْيِ هَدْيُ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَشَرُّ الْأُمُورِ مُخَدَّنَاتُهَا وَكُلُّ مُخَدَّنَةٍ بَدْعَةٌ وَكُلُّ بَدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ وَكُلُّ ضَلَالَةٍ فِي النَّارِ

As for what follows:

أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ

Oh People!¹

Allah says in His Honorable Book:

لَا تَقُمْ فِيهِ أَبَدًا لَمَسْجِدٍ أُسِّسَ عَلَى التَّقْوَى مِنْ أَوَّلِ يَوْمٍ أَحَقُّ أَنْ تَقُومَ فِيهِ فِيهِ رِجَالٌ يُحِبُّونَ أَنْ
يَتَطَهَّرُوا وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُطَهَّرِينَ

Never stand you therein. Verily, the mosque whose foundation was laid from the first day on piety is more worthy that you stand therein (to pray). In it are men who love to clean and to purify themselves. And Allah loves those who make themselves clean and pure (i.e. who clean their private parts with dust [i.e. to be considered as soap) and water from urine and stools, after answering the call of nature] [9:108]

And He said:

فِي بُيُوتٍ أُذِنَ لِلَّهِ أَنْ تُرْفَعَ وَيُذْكَرَ فِيهَا اسْمُهُ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ فِيهَا بِالْغُدُوِّ وَالْآصَالِ - رِجَالٌ لَا تُلْهِيهِمْ
تِجَارَةٌ وَلَا بَيْعٌ عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَإِقَامِ الصَّلَاةِ وَإِيتَاءِ الزَّكَاةِ يَخَفُونَ يَوْمًا تَتَقَلَّبُ فِيهِ الْقُلُوبُ
وَالْأَبْصَارُ

In houses (mosques), which Allah has ordered to be raised (to be cleaned, and to be honoured), in them His Name is glorified in the mornings and in the afternoons or the evenings. Men whom neither trade nor sale diverts them from the Remembrance of Allah (with heart and tongue), nor from performing As-Salat (Iqamat-as-Salat), nor from giving the Zakat. They fear a Day when hearts and eyes will be overturned (from the horror of the torment of the Day of Resurrection) [24:36-37]

Imam as-Sa'adi (may Allah have mercy upon) said:

عَظِيمَةٌ فَاضِلَةٌ، هِيَ أَحَبُّ الْبِقَاعِ إِلَيْهِ، وَهِيَ الْمَسَاجِدُ

¹ This is from the Sunnah of the Prophet (ﷺ) as found in many Ahaadith. For more, see Shaikh Yahya ibn ali al-Hajoori's excellent work *Abkaam ul-Jumma wa bida'iba* pg. 364

“Great, virtuous. They are the most beloved places to Allah and they are the Masaajid”. [Tafsir Sa’adi]

And the Exalted said:

وَأَنَّ الْمَسَاجِدَ لِلَّهِ فَلَا تَدْعُوا مَعَ اللَّهِ أَحَدًا

And the mosques are for Allah (Alone), so invoke not anyone along with Allah [72:18]

In these verses, Allah mentions the high status of the masjid and its important position in Islam. The masaajid are the houses of Allah and the places built for His worship

Buraidah (may Allah be pleased with him) said that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

إِنَّمَا بُنِيَتِ الْمَسَاجِدُ لِمَا بُنِيَتْ لَهُ

The mosques were built for that for which they were built.' [Muslim no. 569]

Imam Nawawi (may Allah be pleased with him) said:

لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى وَالصَّلَاةِ وَالْعِلْمِ وَالْمَذَاكِرَةِ فِي الْخَيْرِ وَنَحْوِهَا

“For the remembrance of Allah, the Exalted, prayer, knowledge, the study/discussion of good, and the likes” [Sharh Saheeh Muslim (5/55)]

For this noble reason the masaajid were built. The masjid is an important institution in Islam. The Prophet (ﷺ) built masaajid. The first masjid built after the Prophethood was Masjid Quba.

Imam Ibn Qayyim (may Allah have mercy upon him) said:

وَأَسَّسَ مَسْجِدَ قُبَاءَ ، وَهُوَ أَوَّلُ مَسْجِدٍ أُسِّسَ بَعْدَ النَّبُوءَةِ .

"And he (ﷺ) built masjid Quba and it was the first masjid established after the Prophethood" [Zaad al-Ma'ad (3/52)]

Hafidh Ibn Kathir (may Allah have mercy upon him) said:

**فكان هذا المسجد أو مسجد بني في الاسلام بالمدينة، بل أول مسجد جعل لعموم الناس في هذه
المة واحترزنا بهذا عن المسجد الذي بناه الصديق بمكة عند باب داره يتعبد فيه ويصلي لان
ذاك كان لخاصة نفسه لم يكن للناس عامة والله أعلم.**

"So this masjid, masjid Quba, was the first masjid built in Islam in Madinah. Rather it was the first masjid that was made for all of humankind in this religion. We exempt from this [statement] the masjid that was built by as-Siddeeq (may Allah be pleased with him) in Makkah near the door of of his house [See: Bukhari (no.2297)]. He used to worship in and pray in it and that was specific for himself. It was not for all of the people. And Allah Knows Best" . [Bidaayah wan-Nihaayah (3/225)]

Then he (ﷺ) built his own masjid after that [Saheeh Bukhari (no. 2771)]. He (ﷺ) even built another masjid during his lifetime for a group of Companions (may Allah be pleased with them) [See: Thamr al-Mustadaab pg. 476]

On top of that, the Prophet (ﷺ) used to order that the masaajid be built in the neighborhoods:

On the authority of Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) that:

أَمَرَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - أَنْ تُتَّخَذَ الْمَسَاجِدُ فِي الدُّورِ وَأَنْ تُطَهَّرَ وَتُطَيَّبَ

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) commanded that places of prayer be established in villages, and that they be purified and perfumed [Saheeh Sunan Abi Dawood no. 455]

And he attached a great reward for building them as comes in the narration of Uthmaan (may Allah be pleased with him):

مَنْ بَنَى مَسْجِدًا لِلَّهِ بَنَى اللَّهُ لَهُ فِي الْجَنَّةِ مِثْلَهُ

He who built a mosque for Allah, Allah would build a house for him like it in Paradise [Bukhari no. 450 and Muslim no. 533]

All these evidences indicate the great concern the Prophet (ﷺ) had for the masaajid due to the great good that is in it and the acts of worship. The masjid should have a profound role in the life of Muslim. The masaajid are the most beloved places to Allah. As it comes on the authority of Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

أَحَبُّ الْبِلَادِ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَسَاجِدُهَا وَأَبْغَضُ الْبِلَادِ إِلَى اللَّهِ أَسْوَاقُهَا

The parts of land dearest to Allah are its mosques, and the parts most hateful to Allah are markets
[Muslim no. 671]

But look nowadays! The masaaqid are empty and the Muslims, young and old, spend a lot of time in the most hateful places in the sight of Allah. The reason why Allah hates the markets/shopping malls is because of the evil that occurs therein.

Imam Nawawi (may Allah have mercy upon him) said:

لِأَنَّهَا مَحَلُّ الْغِشِّ وَالْخِدَاعِ وَالرِّبَا وَالْأَيْمَانِ الْكَاذِبَةِ وَإِخْلَافِ الْوَعْدِ وَالْإِعْرَاضِ عَنِ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَغَيْرِ ذَلِكَ مِمَّا فِي مَعْنَاهُ

“This is because it is a place of cheating, deception, usury, false oaths, breaking of promises, turning away from the remembrance of Allah, and other than that from it's meaning" [Sharh Saheeh Muslim (2/308)]

More than that, Shaytan’s misguidance and evil opinions dominant in the markets unlike the masaaqid.

As comes in the narration of Salman (may Allah be pleased with him) that he said:

لَا تَكُونَنَّ إِنْ اسْتَطَعْتَ أَوَّلَ مَنْ يَدْخُلُ السُّوقَ وَلَا آخِرَ مَنْ يَخْرُجُ مِنْهَا فَإِنَّهَا مَعْرَكَةُ الشَّيْطَانِ وَبِهَا يَنْصَبُ رَايَتُهُ

If you are able, do not be the first to enter the market and the last to get out of that because in there is the battle of Shaytan and the standard of Shaytan is set there [Muslim no. 2451]

Imam Nawawi (may Allah have mercy upon him) said:

قَالَ الْمَاوَرِدِيُّ وَغَيْرُهُ : الدَّمُ لِمَنْ أَكْثَرَ مُلَازِمَةَ السُّوقِ وَصَرَفَ أَكْثَرَ الْأَوْقَاتِ إِلَيْهَا وَالِاشْتِعَالَ بِهَا عَنْ الْعِبَادَةِ وَهَذَا كَمَا قَالُوهُ

"al-Maawardi and others said: Dispraise is for the one who often frequents the market and spends most of his time in it, preoccupying himself from the worship of Allah due to that. This is what they said" [Majmoo' (9/154)]

It is not to say that it is haram to go to the market/shopping mall as the Prophet (ﷺ) used to walk in the market [See the Quran: (25:7)]. But how many Muslims spend their time, especially the youth, frequenting the shopping malls without need! By doing so, they avoid coming to the best places in the sight of Allah. Worst than this, many of our youth spend their time in places worse than the market, like the Shisha bars! If they do not attend the masjid, then they will spend their time in places worse.

The reason why the Masjid occupies such a high status in Islam is because of its many functions:

1. The masjid is the main gathering place for the Muslims.

Shaikhul-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah (may Allah have mercy upon him):

وَكَاثَتْ " مَوَاضِعُ الْأَيْمَةِ وَمَجَامِعُ الْأُمَّةِ " هِيَ الْمَسَاجِدُ ; فَإِنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَسَّسَ مَسْجِدَهُ الْمُبَارَكَ عَلَى التَّقْوَى : فَفِيهِ الصَّلَاةُ وَالْقِرَاءَةُ وَالذِّكْرُ ; وَتَعْلِيمُ الْعِلْمِ وَالْخُطْبُ

"And the position of the Leaders and the gathering places of the Ummah are the Masaajid. For verily the Prophet (ﷺ) established his blessed masjid upon taqwa. In it was the prayer, recitation of the Quran, remembrance of Allah, teaching knowledge, and sermons...." [Majmoo' al-Fatawa (25/39)]

2. As Shaikhul Islam mentioned above, the masjid is the primary place for disseminating Islamic knowledge. Islam puts the utmost concern towards seeking beneficial knowledge and disseminating it. The masjid was the place where the Prophet (ﷺ) and his Companions (may Allah have mercy upon them) use to teach, study, and review knowledge. Knowledge is the inheritance of the Prophet (ﷺ).

As Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with them) said to the People of the market:

يَا أَهْلَ السُّوقِ ! مَا أَعْجَزَكُمْ ! قَالُوا : وَمَا ذَاكَ يَا أَبَا هُرَيْرَةَ ؟ قَالَ : ذَاكَ مِيرَاثُ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ يُقْسَمُ ، أَلَا تَذْهَبُونَ فَتَأْخُذُونَ نَصِيبَكُمْ مِنْهُ ؟ قَالُوا : وَأَيْنَ هُوَ ؟ قَالَ : فِي الْمَسْجِدِ ، فَخَرَجُوا سِرَاعًا ، وَوَقَفَ أَبُو هُرَيْرَةَ لَهُمْ حَتَّى رَجَعُوا ، فَقَالَ لَهُمْ ، مَا لَكُمْ ؟ فَقَالُوا : يَا أَبَا هُرَيْرَةَ ! قَدْ أَتَيْنَا الْمَسْجِدَ فَدَخَلْنَا فِيهِ ، فَلَمْ نَرَ فِيهِ شَيْئًا يُقْسَمُ ؟

فَقَالَ لَهُمْ أَبُو هُرَيْرَةَ : وَمَا رَأَيْتُمْ فِي الْمَسْجِدِ أَحَدًا ؟ قَالُوا : بَلَى ؛ رَأَيْنَا قَوْمًا يُصَلُّونَ ، وَقَوْمًا يَقْرَأُونَ الْقُرْآنَ ، وَقَوْمًا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ الْحَلَالَ وَالْحَرَامَ ، فَقَالَ لَهُمْ أَبُو هُرَيْرَةَ : وَيَحْكُمُ فِذَاكَ مِيرَاثُ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ ،

"Oh People of the Market! How unable you are? They said: what is that Abu Hurairah? He said: That the inheritance of the Prophet is being distributed. Are you not going to go and get your share? They said: Where is it? He said: in the masjid. So they left quickly and Abu Hurairah stood waiting until they returned. So he said to them: What is the matter with you? They said: Oh Abu Hurairah! We went to the masjid. We entered and did not see anything being distributed? He said: Did you not see anyone in the masjid? They said: Of course! We saw a people praying, people reciting the Quran, people reviewing the Halal and Haram. So Abu Hurairah said to them: Woe to you, that is the inheritance of Muhammad" [Saheeh Targheeb no. 83]

So what place can be better than the masjid where the inheritance of the Prophet (ﷺ) and his legacy is continuously distributed? Through this knowledge and teaching the Muslims improve and non-Muslims submit to their Creator. The masjid helps facilitate much good by the permission of Allah.

3. The masjid is also a center for *tarbiyyah* (cultivation) and admonishments/reminders to benefit the Muslims. It is a place to learn etiquette, manners, right and wrong etc.

Second Khutbah

الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على نبينا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

As for what proceeds:

How can we restore the status/importance of the masjid in our lives. We can do the following things:

1. We should frequent the masajid.

The Salaf used to come to the masjid when they had free time:

Sha'bi (may Allah have mercy upon him) said:

كانوا إذا فرغوا من شيء أتوا المساجد

“When they (the Companions and the Salaf) were unoccupied, they came to the Masaajid”
[Reported by Bayhaqi in Shu’ab al-Imaan (no. 2690) and the Muhaqiq Mukhtaar an-Nadawi said: Its narrators are reliable”]

And Salmaan he wrote to Abu Darda (may Allah be pleased with both of them):

يَا أَخِي ، عَلَيْكَ بِالْمَسْجِدِ فَالْزَمَهُ

Oh my brother, hold fast to the masjid [Something similar was reported from Abu Darda (may Allah be pleased with him: “Make the masjid your house”. See Saheeha (no.716)]

2. We should treat the masjid with the utmost respect and care like how we treat our houses and even more so.

Salmaan al-Faarisi (may Allah be pleased with him) said that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

الْمَسْجِدُ بَيْتُ كُلِّ مُؤْمِنٍ

The masjid is the house of every believer [Saheeh Jami' no. 6702]

Imam as-San'aani (may Allah have mercy upon him) said:

،أَي مِّن شَأْنِ الْمُؤْمِنِ أَنْ يَبَادِرَ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ وَيَعَاوِدَهُ وَيَلْزَمَهُ وَيَصُونَهُ كَمَا يَصْنَعُهُ فِي بَيْتِهِ

"That is: from the affair of the believer is hastening to the masjid, returning to it, clinging to it, and protecting/maintaining it just like he does for his house" [Tanweer Sharh Jami' as-Saghir (10/478)]

And Allah says:

ذَلِكَ وَمَنْ يُعَظِّمْ شَعَائِرَ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّهَا مِن تَقْوَى الْقُلُوبِ

Thus it is [what has been mentioned in the above said Verses (27, 28, 29, 30, 31) is an obligation that mankind owes to Allah]. And whosoever honours the Symbols of Allah, then it is truly from the piety of the heart [22:32]

3. We should attach our hearts to the Masjid by coming to pray in it and loving to be there.

Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) said that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

سَبْعَةٌ يُظِلُّهُمُ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فِي ظِلِّهِ، يَوْمَ لَا ظِلَّ إِلَّا ظِلُّهُ إِمَامٌ عَادِلٌ، وَشَابٌّ نَشَأَ فِي عِبَادَةِ اللَّهِ، وَرَجُلٌ ذَكَرَ اللَّهَ فِي خَلَاءٍ فَفَاضَتْ عَيْنَاهُ، وَرَجُلٌ قَلْبُهُ مُعَلَّقٌ فِي الْمَسْجِدِ، وَرَجُلَانِ تَحَابَّا فِي اللَّهِ، وَرَجُلٌ دَعَتْهُ امْرَأَةٌ ذَاتُ مَنْصِبٍ وَجَمَالٍ إِلَى نَفْسِهَا قَالَ إِنِّي أَخَافُ اللَّهَ. وَرَجُلٌ تَصَدَّقَ بِصَدَقَةٍ فَأَخْفَاهَا، حَتَّى لَا تَعْلَمَ شِمَالُهُ مَا صَنَعَتْ يَمِينُهُ

Seven (people) will be shaded by Allah by His Shade on the Day of Resurrection when there will be no shade except His Shade. (They will be), a just ruler, a young man who has been brought up in the worship of Allah, a man who remembers Allah in seclusion and his eyes are then flooded with tears, **a man whose heart is attached to mosques (offers his compulsory congregational prayers in the mosque)**, two men who love each other for Allah's Sake, a man who is called by a charming lady of noble birth to commit illegal sexual intercourse with her, and he says, 'I am afraid of Allah,' and (finally), a man who gives in charity so secretly that his left hand does not know what his right hand has given [Bukhari no. 6806]

We ask Allah to aid us upon the truth. Verily He is the Guardian of that and capable of it.

قُومُوا إِلَى صَلَاتِكُمْ يَرْحَمُكُمُ اللَّهُ

Stand for you Prayer, may Allah have mercy upon you²

-----End of the Khutbah-----

² This is how Abu Bakr as-Sideeq radiallahu anahu ended his first Khutbah as found in *Seerah Ibn Hisham* with a **Saheeh** chain.