

First khutbah

My brothers and sisters, Islam is a religion of submission, but in order for us to submit to Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**, we need to prepare. We are not machines. We are not robots. We cannot flick a switch and suddenly become pious all of a sudden. That's why one of the biggest objectives of this religion is preparation; to think about what's next. The Prophet **صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ** was asked in a hadith, 'which Muslim is the most intelligent?' He said, **صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ**:

أَكْثَرُهُمْ لِلْمَوْتِ ذِكْرًا

'The one who thinks about death a great deal'

وَأَحْسَنُهُمْ لِمَا بَعْدَهُ اسْتِعْدَادًا

'As a result he prepares and he thinks and he's preparing in the best way'

He said **صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ**:

أَوْلَيْكَ الْأَكْبِيَّاسُ

‘These are the intelligent ones’

My brothers and sisters may Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** aid us, this religion is enriched with examples of preparation. So before the obligatory prayer or any prayer, you need to prepare by making wudu. Before the obligatory prayer, you have sunnan that you can pray. Before you recite the Qur’an, you seek refuge in Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** and sometimes the preparation is a must and the following acts of worship won’t be accepted unless you are prepared correctly.

My brother sisters ahead of us is a month which is beloved to Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى**. This month is the month of jannah. A month when the doors of His heavens are opened up. The doors of His hellfire are shut. A month which Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** tells us to prepare for. A month where your sins will be forgiven. A month where your rewards will be multiplied. A month where Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** will free every single one of the believers who He wills from the fire. For this requires preparation.

My brother and sisters may Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** bless us all, we have now entered the month of Rajab and the Ulema have explained that the name Rajab, the root of it comes from Rajaba which is to strengthen, to support, but what is it that you are strengthening and what is it that you are supporting? This teaches us that even in the name of this month, there is preparation.

Dhul-Nun al-Misri one of the imams of the Salaf **رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ**, he said, ‘Rajab is a month where you prepare when you think about your sins and you leave them behind and Sha’ban is a month where you now encourage yourself to do more an increase in worship and get closer to Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** and then you have Ramadan after all of that preparation. You have Ramadan. Ramadan is the month where you wait.’

Wait for what?

He said, ‘Ramadan is a month where you wait for unexplainable gifts to be given to you. Whoever doesn’t prepare by leaving off sins’ he says رَجْمَهُ اللهُ, ‘whoever doesn’t prepare by leaving off sins, then that person hasn’t prepared for working hard and that person’ he says رَجْمَهُ اللهُ, ‘such people are the people of nonsense. Such people are the people of nonsense, because of the lack of preparation.’

Another one from the Ulema of the Salaf, Abu Bakr al-Warraq at Tirmidhi رَجْمَهُ اللهُ, he had a nickname which was known as al - Hakim, meaning he was wise رَجْمَهُ اللهُ. ‘Rajab’ he says, ‘is the month of planting. Sha’ban is the month of irrigating the crops that you have planted in Rajab and Ramadan is the month of harvesting those crops.’

Ibn Rajab al Hanbali رَجْمَهُ اللهُ in talking about the importance of preparing and importance of the months that we are in, he said, ‘Rajab is a month which opens up the doors for all goodness and blessings from Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى Why? Because after Sha’ban, after that you have Ramadan and after that, you have the month of Hajj. All of it starts off with the 7th month of the Hijri calendar. Rajab.

My brother and sisters we all want good for ourselves, but you will never be able to produce, unless if you prepare. We all know Makkah is a haram, things are sacred there. When you go to Makkah, you increase in doing good; you abstain from doing bad. The Ulema have said, ‘time can also be a haram.’ Rajab is a haram, it is one of the sacred months of Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى, this means doing good deeds in this month is an increase with Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى. Not only is it preparation for what is coming after, but it is beloved to Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى that you increase in good deeds during this month, but just like being in any other haram, if you do bad deeds during this month, these are worse with Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى.

Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** tells us in the Qur'an about the month of rajab and the sacred months that he has:

إِنَّ عِدَّةَ الشُّهُورِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ اثْنَا عَشَرَ شَهْرًا فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ يَوْمَ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ مِنْهَا أَرْبَعَةٌ حُرْمٌ ذَلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ فَلَا تَظْلِمُوا فِيهِنَّ أَنْفُسَكُمْ

“Indeed, the number of months with Allah is twelve [lunar] months in the register of Allah [from] the day He created the heavens and the earth; of these, four are sacred. That is the correct religion, so do not wrong yourselves during them” at-Taubah (Repentance) 9:36

Second khutbah

My brothers and sisters fear Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** by doing actions which are beloved to Him and staying away from what is not beloved to Him.

My brother and sisters may Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** bless you, now that we know that preparation is very important, it's important to Allah **سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى** and it's important in our religion, the question is how? How can you prepare? Some of the Ulema of the Salaf have given us the answer. Some of them they used to say, 'your books have become darkened by sins. Your records have become darkened by sins, but glad tidings for a person, but you can wash them. You can bring light to your records. You can bring light to your deeds by making tawbah in this month of Rajab.'

My brothers and sisters, this is the truth, because whenever you are prevented from any kind of goodness, you are only prevented because of the badness that you have committed yourself, but when you make tawbah, you wipe that all away. When you make tawbah, you're starting off afresh. When you make tawbah, you are ready and you are prepared, and when you make tawbah, as you have heard from this statement, Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى will take you out of darkness and put you into light.

As you learn and benefit from Ustadh Ariff Olla's jumu'ah sermons from which are these notes- don't keep it to yourself! Share & teach these notes - please do not edit or manipulate this content.

"One who guides to something good has a reward similar to that of its doer"- Saheeh Muslim vol.3, no.4665.