



Synopsis of Friday Sermon

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Synopsis of Eid al-Fitr Sermon
03-30-2025

Holding onto the Spirit of Ramadan

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

All praise is due to Allah, who has blessed us with the month of Ramadan and allowed us to witness its virtues. We send peace and blessings upon our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW), his family, his companions, and all those who follow his path until the Day of Judgment.

Congratulations on completing a month long of fasting and worship. You deserve to rejoice and celebrate.

Ramadan has left us. How do we feel about its departure?

For those who felt relief at its passing, eagerly waiting for it to end, know that you may have missed out on the true purpose and blessings of Ramadan. But for those who feel a deep sadness in their hearts, like a mother bidding farewell to her son who is traveling overseas, unsure if she will ever see him again, then you have indeed tasted the essence of Taqwa.

Allah (SWT) says in the Qur'an,

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾

“O you who believe! Fasting has been prescribed upon you as it was prescribed upon those before you, so that you may attain Taqwa.” [al-Baqarah: 183]

The goal of Ramadan was not simply abstaining from food and drink but increasing our awareness of Allah, strengthening our connection with Him, and purifying our hearts. Did we succeed in this goal?

Signs of a Successful Ramadan

How do we know if our Ramadan was accepted? It is not about how many fasts we completed, nor how many pages of the Qur'an we recited. Rather, the real measure is what remains in our hearts and actions after Ramadan.

During Ramadan, we engaged in fasting, *Taraweeh*, *Tahajjud*, charity, the recitation of the Qur'an, reconnecting family ties, avoiding backbiting, dishonesty, and excessive social media. These acts increased our awareness of Allah and helped us cultivate Taqwa.

Now that Ramadan is over, will we abandon these habits?

One of the greatest signs that Ramadan was accepted is that our hearts long for its return and that we continue the good habits we developed. If we return to our old ways—neglecting Salah, delaying Qur'an recitation, and indulging in sins—then what have we truly gained from Ramadan?

The Lord of Ramadan is the Lord of Every Month

A believer does not worship Allah (SWT) only in Ramadan. The Lord of Ramadan is the Lord of every month and every day. True success is to remain steadfast even after Ramadan.

The Prophet (SAW) advised us, “The most beloved deeds to Allah are those that are consistent, even if they are small.” (*al-Bukhari*)

Even if we cannot maintain the same level of worship as in Ramadan, we should continue small, consistent acts—fasting the six days of Shawwal, maintaining our night prayers, giving charity regularly, and keeping our tongues and hearts pure.

Fasting the Six Days of Shawwal: A Great Reward

One of the great blessings that follows Ramadan is the opportunity to fast six days in the month of Shawwal. The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said,

عَنْ أَبِي أَيُّوبَ، قَالَ قَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: " مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ ثُمَّ أَتْبَعَهُ سِتًّا مِنْ شَوَّالٍ فَذَلِكَ صِيَامُ الدَّهْرِ " .

“Whoever fasts Ramadan and then follows it with six days of Shawwal, it is as if they have fasted for a lifetime.” (*Muslim*)

This means that the reward for fasting these six days is multiplied so greatly that it is as if one has fasted the entire year!

One is not required to fast them consecutively. You can spread them out over the month of Shawwal, as long as they are completed within Shawwal. Some people prefer to fast them right after Eid (from the 2nd to the 7th of Shawwal), while others choose to space them out over the month. Both are acceptable.

What If One Has Missed Fasts from Ramadan?

Many scholars recommend that if someone has missed obligatory fasts from Ramadan (due to illness, menstruation, or travel, etc.), they should make up those fasts first before fasting the six days of Shawwal. This is because completing the missed Ramadan fasts is a duty, whereas the six days of Shawwal are voluntary.

The six days of Shawwal are a great way to continue the spiritual momentum gained in Ramadan. They provide an opportunity to remain connected to the habit of fasting throughout the year. Even if one cannot fast all six days, fasting a few extra voluntary days is still beneficial and rewarded by Allah (SWT).

May Allah accept our fasting and grant us the ability to maintain good habits even after Ramadan! Ameen.

The Two Occasions for Joy

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said,

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: ” لِلصَّائِمِ فَرْحَتَانِ فَرْحَتَانِ فَرْحَةٌ حِينَ يُفْطِرُ وَفَرْحَةٌ حِينَ يَلْقَى رَبَّهُ“

“The fasting person has two occasions for joy: one when he breaks his fast, and the other when he meets his Lord.” (*al-Bukhari and Muslim*)

The Joy of Breaking the Fast: After a long day (or month) of fasting, there is a sense of relief and happiness when one breaks their fast. This joy is not just about eating and drinking, but about fulfilling an act of worship and obeying Allah’s command. On Eid al-Fitr, this joy is even greater, as it marks the completion of an entire month of devotion, fasting, and worship.

The Joy of Meeting Allah (SWT): The greater joy awaits in the Hereafter when the fasting person meets Allah. This refers to the eternal reward that Allah has promised for those who fast sincerely for His sake. Fasting is a deeply personal act of worship, and Allah says:

"Fasting is for Me, and I will reward it." (*Hadith Qudsi, al-Bukhari*) On the Day of Judgment, when others are desperate for salvation, the fasting person will experience the joy of seeing the reward of their sacrifice.

This hadith reminds us that fasting is not just about abstaining from food and drink. It is about developing *taqwa* (God-consciousness), purifying the soul, and seeking the ultimate joy of meeting Allah (SWT) with our deeds accepted.

May Allah grant us both occasions of joy—in this life and the Hereafter. Ameen.

Eid is a Time of Joy and Gratitude

The Prophet (SAW) said, " O Abu Bakr, for every community, there is an Eid, and this is our Eid." (*al-Bukhari*)

The joy of Eid is indeed a celebration of the One God and an expression of gratitude for His guidance. Allah (SWT) says,

وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

“So that you complete the prescribed period and proclaim the greatness of Allah for guiding you, and perhaps you will be grateful.” [al-Baqarah 2:186]

Muslims celebrate the completion of a month-long journey of fasting, prayer, and spiritual growth. The joy of Eid is not just about feasting and social gatherings; it is a celebration of faith, gratitude, and submission to Allah.

You deserve to rejoice and celebrate. You have completed an act of worship that brings you closer to Allah. You have experienced hunger and thirst for the sake of Allah, and now, you enjoy His blessings.

The joy of Eid is the celebration of the One God. True happiness comes from obedience to Allah (SWT). Eid is a moment to exalt Allah’s greatness and gratefulness for His guidance.

وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

“And to exalt your Lord for what He guided you to, and so that you may be grateful.” [al-Baqarah, 2:186]

The purpose of Ramadan was to increase our *taqwa* and make us more grateful for Allah’s blessings.

Eid is an opportunity to reflect on how Ramadan has changed us and to continue the journey of faith beyond Ramadan.

Indeed, "For every community, there is an Eid, and this is our Eid." This is Our Eid.

So, rejoice and celebrate!

كُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا هَنِيئًا بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٤٤﴾ إِنَّا كَذَّبْنَاكَ بِمَا كُنْتَ تَعْمَلُ ﴿٤٣﴾

“Eat and drink to your hearts’ content as a reward for your deeds, Thus do We reward the good-doers.” [al-Mursalat, 77-43,44]

- Eat and drink to your heart’s delight—
- Visit one another, mend broken relationships, and spread love and kindness.
- Hug your children, tell them how much Allah loves them, and remind them how much you care for them.
- Make this day a true celebration of faith, family, and gratitude.

A Final Reflection

As we celebrate Eid today, let us reflect, did Ramadan soften our hearts and bring us closer to Allah? Did it purify our actions and make us more conscious of what we say and do? Have we developed a habit of seeking forgiveness and turning to Allah with sincerity?

If yes, then rejoice! This is a sign that our Ramadan was successful and that Allah (SWT) has accepted our efforts.

May Allah (SWT) accept our fasting, our prayers, and all our good deeds. May He allow us to witness many more Ramadans in good health and strong faith.

Eid Mubarak to you all!

الله أكبر، الله أكبر، لا إله إلا الله، الله أكبر، الله أكبر والله الحمد

END