

Truthfulness, the path to Paradise

Honesty is more than not lying. It is the alignment of tongue, heart, and limb. Why the Prophet (peace be upon him) called it the road to Paradise.

CENTREPIECE Sahih al-Bukhari 6094, Surah at-Tawbah 9:119

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. The chain of honesty

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: truthfulness leads to righteousness, righteousness leads to Paradise. A man keeps telling the truth until he is recorded with Allah as siddiq (Bukhari 6094). The label is earned by repetition.

2. Three places we lie quietly

Joking exaggeration (the Prophet (peace be upon him) warned: woe to the one who tells lies to make people laugh, woe to him, Tirmidhi 2315). Business descriptions (the truthful merchant is with the prophets, Tirmidhi 1209). Self-talk about ourselves to others.

3. The cost of one lie

Aisha said: no quality was more hated to the Prophet (peace be upon him) than lying. When he learned someone had told a lie, he would hold it against him until he heard the man had repented (Tirmidhi 1973). One lie cost a long memory.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to truthfulness, the path to paradise.

Suggested closing: Today, refuse one lie you would have told to soften an awkwardness. Find another way.

PREPARATION NOTES

1. Read every cited verse or hadith in full before using it.
2. Add one example your own congregation will recognise.
3. Check questions of fiqh and recognised disagreement with a qualified local scholar.

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