

The hidden shirk in our lives

The Prophet (peace be upon him) warned us most about shirk that creeps in unseen. Riya, attachment, fear of people. The forms we never call by name.

CENTREPIECE Surah Luqman 31:13, Musnad Ahmad 23630

FIRST KHUTBAH

1. Major shirk and minor shirk

Major shirk is worshipping anything besides Allah. Minor shirk is what the Prophet (peace be upon him) called the more frightening kind, because we do not see it. He said: what I fear most for you is the lesser shirk. They asked: what is it? He said: riya, showing off (Ahmad 23630).

2. Riya: the worship done for the audience

Praying differently when watched. Giving so that people will praise the giver. Riya can corrupt a deed, and its ruling depends on how the showing off entered and whether the deed was mixed with a sincere intention. The safe response is to renew the intention and ask Allah for acceptance.

3. Other quiet idols

The heart can become attached to status, approval, wealth, or authority until obedience to Allah is compromised for their sake. Ordinary fear, hope, and reliance on practical means are part of human life. The danger begins when a created thing is given a place that belongs only to Allah.

SECOND KHUTBAH

Return to the centrepiece and gather the message around one honest change connected to the hidden shirk in our lives.

Suggested closing: Allahumma inni a'udhu bika an ushrika bika wa ana a'lam, wa astaghfiruka lima la a'lam, O Allah, I seek refuge from associating partners with You knowingly, and I ask Your forgiveness for what I do not know.

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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