



**Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura**

**Friday Sermon**

**17 April 2015 / 27 Jamadilakhir 1436**

**Understanding Wisdom In Practicing The Religion**

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَحَاطَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عِلْمًا وَقَضَىٰ بِمَا يُرِيدُ حِكْمَةً  
وَ حُكْمًا، أَنْعَمَ بِالنَّعَمِ ابْتِلَاءً وَامْتِحَانًا، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ  
وَ حْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ذُو الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا  
مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَفْضَلُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَ مَصْبَاحُ الظَّلَامِ، اللَّهُمَّ  
صَلِّ عَلَىٰ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَ عَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا  
كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَيْثُ مَا كُنْتُمْ، فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ  
يَعْلَمُ سِرَّكُمْ وَ عِلَانِيَتَكُمْ

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

Let us increase our taqwa to Allah with true taqwa. Hold on tight to the rope of Allah s.w.t. and let us love and care for one another. May we be placed among the believers and those with wisdom (hikmah).

Jemaah,

Throughout the life of our beloved messenger, Prophet Muhammad s.a.w., one trait that was never separated from him

was his wisdom. When Rasulullah practiced Islam, taught others and called upon others to embrace the religion by giving them advice, he did all that with wisdom.

Once, the Prophet s.a.w. was approached by a young man who asked for permission to engage in adultery. Rasulullah asked him to sit close by and then said to him: *“Would you like it if the act (adultery) happened to your mother?”* The young man replied: *“By Allah, no! I would rather Allah make me your ransom (for your death)”*. Rasulullah s.a.w. then said: *“(And so) other people would not like the same thing to happen to their mothers.”* Rasulullah s.a.w. then asked what if the heinous act was done upon his female relatives (daughters, aunts, female cousins). The young man gave the same answer, that he will not be pleased if any adulterous act involved his female relatives. Then, Rasulullah s.a.w. placed his hand on the young man and said: *“Oh Allah forgive his sins, cleanse his heart (from thinking of sins) and protect him from engaging in adultery.”* [Hadith reported by Imam Ahmad]

Respected Friday Jemaah,

Just look at how open Rasulullah s.a.w. was in discussing and advising the young man regarding the matter mentioned above. He did not turn away from the man, did not chase him away nor did he scold him. He did not even snub or reprimand him. Rather, Rasulullah s.a.w. dispensed advice with kindness. He asked the young man to think of the consequences of such

actions and the emotions involved, should the same thing happen to his own relatives. The gist of the message and reminder was finally able to be grasped and understood by the young man.

There is an important lesson that we can learn from this story; in giving advice to others, we have to deliver it in an appropriate and thoughtful manner. Let it not be that because of our lack of tact and wisdom, we fail to put across a good advice, or even worsen the situation. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah an-Nahl verse 125:

أَدْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَجَدِّ لَهُم  
بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ ضَلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ وَهُوَ  
أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ ﴿١٢٥﴾

Which means: *“Invite (all) to the Way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious: for thy Lord knoweth best, who have strayed from His Path, and who receive guidance.”*

That was how Rasulallah s.a.w. was taught by Allah s.w.t. to spread the message of Islam and call others enjoin in goodness with wisdom. The Companions r.a. followed the example of Rasulallah s.a.w. in teaching the ummah. Hence, the Companions emphasised wisdom in teaching and educating the people. It was reported by Muslim that Ibn Mas’ud r.a. said:

مَا أَنْتَ بِمُحَدِّثٍ قَوْمًا حَدِيثًا لَا تَبْلُغُهُ عُقُولُهُمْ ؛ إِلَّا كَانَ لِبَعْضِهِمْ فِتْنَةً

Which means: *“Do not speak of a matter with a group of people who are unable to comprehend it. Because this will become fitnah (a trial) for some of them.”*

This is the essence of wisdom. It is information or knowledge that should bring about goodness and not evil, slander or even destruction.

For example, we learn tauhid to help ourselves be closer to Allah and to strengthen our belief in His existence. However, it is not wisdom if we were to seek knowledge from a scholar with a different approach, and we then apply it only to prove to others that we are better than them, and that our faith is stronger than theirs.

This is made worse if there are teachers who teach tauhid and aqidah, but only teach their students to label others as disbelievers (kafir) or to accuse others of ascribing partners to Allah (shirk). Literally, the meaning of tauhid is to unite, hence knowledge of tauhid should unite us in worshipping Allah, The One and Only, and not to create disunity. If we find that a teacher or friend is acting as such, then we should leave them and find other teachers and friends who can help us to become a better person. Remember the advice of the Prophet s.a.w. *“Read [and learn] the Quran for as long as your hearts unite*

*upon it, but when you start to quarrel regarding it then stop [reading it for a while].”* [Reported by Imam Al-Bukhari, Imam Muslim & Ahmad]

Jemaah,

If we study the hadith of Rasulullah s.a.w. about wisdom, which we shared earlier in the sermon, we will learn that when the young man asked the Prophet s.a.w. about his desire to commit adultery, Rasulullah s.a.w. did not immediately say that adultery is forbidden (haram). In fact, he shaped his response in such a way that the young man cancelled his own desire to commit the sin.

This is another form of wisdom that is important for us to consider. In calling others to goodness, it is not simply about rulings – whether it is permissible or otherwise. For example, Sheikh Muhammad Ghazali, an Egyptian scholar, was once asked if a person who neglects his prayers (solat) is considered to be guilty of kufur? Sheikh Muhammad Ghazali did not want to respond with the ruling of the issue at hand. Why? Because he did not to delve into a matter which has differences of opinion among scholars, or khilaf, which has no end, but would rather focus on a more basic issue that is: How can we ensure that a person who neglects his prayer wants to perform his prayers.

These days, we find that there are still those who discuss about the ruling of smoking – whether it is forbidden or otherwise – with the excuse that they want to advise their friends regarding the matter. However, we should look beyond its ruling and ask ourselves, what are the steps that we can take to help our friends who smoke to quit the habit.

Beloved Jemaah, this is one of the true meanings of wisdom. It should lead us to a wider understanding and deeper appreciation of our religion. Wisdom, along with Allah's will, is the key to touching the hearts of our family and friends, and to motivate them to be more inclined toward the path of goodness and to boost their love for the religion of Allah and the teachings of His messenger.

May Allah s.w.t. grant us with taufiq and inayah to emulate the Prophet s.a.w. and be placed among those who are bestowed with knowledge and wisdom. Amin Ya Rabbal Alamin.

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ  
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ  
الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ  
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا  
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.