



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

12 June 2015 / 25 Syaaban 1436

Ramadan With Family

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ، لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى
الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ، أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا
شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ
وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ، حَبِيبِنَا الْكَرِيمِ، وَرَسُولِنَا الْعَظِيمِ،
سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ عَزَّ
وَجَلَّ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

Let us strive to boost our taqwa to Allah. Fulfil all of His commands. Avoid all that He has prohibited upon us. Let us rejoice for with Allah's blessings, we will be stepping into the blessed month of Ramadan in a few days time, a moment which every mukmin looks forward to.

Friday Jemaah,

Last week we were reminded of the importance to take advantage of Syaaban to prepare ourselves to usher in

Ramadan. This week, the sermon will discuss the need to prepare our families for Ramadan.

Jemaah,

Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. often stressed on the importance of ensuring continued guidance for our family members. In a hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari, Prophet s.a.w. said: *“Oh Fatimah binti Muhammad (s.a.w.) ask me for any wealth that you desire, but when we are standing in front of Allah s.w.t. I would not be able to help you even slightly.”*

That was Rasulullah s.a.w. He would consistently provide his family members with continuous guidance. As much as we wish for ourselves and family happiness in this world, we would also wish for the same in the Hereafter before Allah s.w.t. We hope and pray that our entire family will be the dwellers of Allah’s paradise, as Allah says in surah At-Thur verse 21:

وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَاتَّبَعَتْهُمْ ذُرِّيَّتُهُمْ بِإِيمَانٍ أَلْحَقْنَا بِهِمْ ذُرِّيَّتَهُمْ وَمَا أَلَتْنَاهُمْ
مِّنْ عَمَلِهِمْ مِّنْ شَيْءٍ كُلُّ امْرِئٍ بِمَا كَسَبَ رَهِينٌ ﴿٢١﴾

Which means: *“And those who believed and whose descendants followed them in faith - We will join with them their descendants, and We will not deprive them of anything of their deeds. Every person, for what he earned, is retained”.*

Jemaah,

The family institution is the bedrock of every society and country. When the family succeeds, the community will also attain success. However, if the family is left without any guidance, then its members will be lost.

Hence, as we are preparing to step into the month of Ramadan, I would like to call upon all of us to protect the family institution. This is especially so as our children are facing various challenges and trials. They are facing all sorts of trends and cultures. Some are healthy, such as those that encourage them to equip themselves with knowledge and skills, or those that push them to be innovative in finding solutions to social problems. However, there are also several worrying trends facing the community. These include social trends that encourage unguided interaction between both genders and same-sex relationships.

The same applies for ideologies: be it radicalism that leads to extremism or religious ideologies that are exclusive and restrictive. One which assumes that only one approach or one opinion is right, and that the rest are wrong or deviant. Furthermore, every teenager, because of his or her age, will undergo psychological changes, and their identities will also evolve. Hence, it is our responsibility to help our family and children in facing these challenges in life successfully.

Friday jemaah,

Let this coming Ramadan be a catalyst for us to refine our efforts in guiding our family. Let this month of rahmah (blessings) spark in us the love and longing to do good. Ensure that this Ramadan will be the month where we nurture noble values as a practice for our family.

Let us start our preparation for this Ramadan as a family by attending classes or lectures by our local ulama. If previously, we only recite the Quran, let us also now try to understand and reflect on the meanings of the Quran. Such efforts can build the religious resilience of our family. With the advancement of technology, we can now easily download electronic books or e-books such as the books written by Ibn Kathir about the various stories found in the Quran. However, this does not mean we should not learn from a teacher. We still need the guidance of the local asatizah and scholars who have been trained, to avoid any misunderstanding of the Quranic verses.

In addition, my dear brothers, with Ramadan just around the corner, we would tend to feel more willing to carry out good deeds. Hence, let us take advantage of this opportunity to make it a habit for us and our children to embrace good values, so that their hearts will love good deeds and actions. It does not matter who are the recipients of these kind acts. Let us enhance the spirit of volunteerism. Let's educate them to become people whom other creations, including those of a

different religion and race, can benefit from the kind acts that they perform. Enliven the teachings of the Prophet s.a.w. as recorded in his hadith: *“The person most loved by Allah is the person who radiates goodness (to others)”* [Hadith reported by Ibn Abi Dunya]

At the same time, let us make an effort to better understand our children. Approach them with rahmah and love. Sometimes, Allah s.w.t tests us through our children. Whatever problems they raise, our first step is to try and understand the challenges that they face. We should not simply ignore our children’s thinking and their self-development because this may cause them to drift apart from us. For instance, there are among our children who face the challenges of identifying their sexual identity. They become confused when they find themselves possibly attracted to someone of the same gender. And when their parents are unable to be their trusted friends, it is feared that they will be even more confused and drift further apart from us. Especially when there are multiple efforts and movements to promote alternative lifestyles, both online and offline. We do not want, and we are not willing to see our children becoming part of this trend. However, what is our role? What are the constructive efforts that we can undertake to bring about a positive outcome in our children who are facing these lifestyle challenges?

Obviously if they are not able to share their problems and the psychological dilemmas with us, they look for alternative avenues. They may be more comfortable speaking to those who are more willing to embrace them. Henceforth, we must show our concern, love and sincere efforts to help them. Try to befriend them. If we are not equipped to provide counselling, we can refer them to counselling centres such as those managed by PPIS.

Jemaah, protect our intention. Protect our sincerity to truly spread goodness to our family and the community. Have takwa to Allah s.w.t. in our intention and our purpose. May we receive taufiq and hidayah from Allah s.w.t. to choose the best path to attain goodness. Hopefully by doing so, our children and our family will always be protected by Allah s.w.t. from any harm in this world and the hereafter. Amin.

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.