



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

26 June 2015 / 9 Ramadan 1436

**Importance of strengthening Family Support**

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ الْفُرْقَانَ وَ أَيْدِ النَّاسِ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَ الْبَيَانَ،  
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ شَهِدَ لِنَفْسِهِ  
الْوَحْدَانِيَّةَ وَ الْإِحْسَانَ وَ شَهِدَ بِهِمَا مَلَائِكَتُهُ وَ الثَّقَلَانِ، وَأَشْهَدُ  
أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ بِالرَّحْمَةِ وَ الرِّضْوَانِ ،  
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَ عَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ  
تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا  
تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

Let us work together toward increasing our takwa to Allah. Let's be consistent (istiqamah) in carrying out Allah's commandments and abstain from what He has prohibited upon us. Hopefully this Ramadan, a month full of blessings and forgiveness, will shape our hearts as believers with true faith in Allah s.w.t., and to be compassionate (ihsan) toward our family and to members of the society.

Respected Jemaah,

The month of Ramadan promises an abundance of opportunities to boost our level of spirituality, to reap more rewards, as well as to gain Allah's pleasure. Last week we were reminded to take advantage of Ramadan to strengthen family ties. This is because our family is our first pillar of support from whom we gain spiritual and emotional strength and support, as well as in instilling good values and beautiful manners. The family is also our first source of reference, the people we first turn to when we are trying to overcome challenges. Such characteristics are reflected in the families of the Prophets (Anbiya').

For example, the story of Prophet Musa a.s. and Prophet Harun a.s. When Prophet Musa a.s. was commanded by Allah s.w.t. to hold a dialogue with Firaun, who was a king known to be powerful and oppressive (zalim), Prophet Musa a.s. supplicated to Allah s.w.t asking for help and support. Allah s.w.t. said in the Quran, in Surah Taha verses 25 to 32:

قَالَ رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي ﴿٢٥﴾ وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي ﴿٢٦﴾  
وَأَحْلِلْ عُقْدَةَ مِنِّ لِسَانِي ﴿٢٧﴾ يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي ﴿٢٨﴾ وَأَجْعَلْ

لِي وَزِيرًا مِّنْ أَهْلِي ﴿٢٢﴾ هَارُونَ أَخِي ﴿٢١﴾ أَشَدُّدَ بِهِ أَزْرِي  
﴿٢٣﴾ وَأَشْرِكُهُ فِي أَمْرِي ﴿٢٢﴾

Which means: “O my Lord! Expand my chest (with faith, knowledge and affection); ease my task for me; and remove the impediment from my speech, so they may understand what I say: and give me a minister of my family, Harun, my brother; add to my strength through him, and make him share my task”.

Beloved Jemaah,

Look at how Prophet Musa a.s. first turned to God, and then looked to his brother, Prophet Harun a.s., for support and assistance in carrying out a difficult and extremely challenging task. Would it not be beautiful if we are able to develop such strong family bonds, such that our family is our source of motivation and inspiration to each other, and not otherwise.

In fact, if we were to search and study the families of the other Prophets, we will find the same trait in their families. For example, the bond that existed between Prophet Yakub a.s. and his son, Prophet Yusuf a.s. So deep was their bond that Prophet Yusuf a.s. chose to confide in his father the anxiety he felt with regard to the dream he had. In fact, Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. was also very close to his family members; whether it was his wives, or his in-laws.

These stories should inspire all fathers – especially those present today – to work toward having closer ties with our children. This is especially true to those of us who have teenage children, as this is the period where they will undergo various changes and challenges. Close ties will help them to view us as their “go-to” source when they have problems to share, to seek advice and help. And as such, we would be able to fulfil their emotional needs, and carry out our obligations and responsibilities in ensuring that they receive proper guidance and reference.

Friday Jemaah,

We need to support each other in improving ourselves and in doing good. We also need to cultivate having good thoughts of others, and we need to have faith that our family members have potentials to be good and do good. These are important values that will help every family tide through their own challenges. Every family will face challenges, brought about by our own weaknesses. But what is sad is when we are more willing to share our feelings and our sadness with friends, rather than family members. In fact, we are embarrassed to share our problems with our family members. How can we improve this situation? This is where every member of the family must put in the effort to communicate with each other. Our communication may have been affected by our busy schedules – children busy with school and parents busy with work. Parents should encourage the habit of sharing what’s happening in our lives

and the challenges we are facing, in an open and honest manner. If discussing and sharing openly about our challenges face-to-face is not a norm or culture in the family, then perhaps we can leverage on social media to share our feelings and thoughts with our family members. Parents need to be more open in showing and telling their children that they love and care for them. This will help them to feel more affectionate toward you and see you not just as disciplinarians, but more importantly, people who truly love them.

Hopefully, as we strive to reap the extra rewards present in this blessed month of Ramadan, we are also able to share the joy with our family. May we strive to build loving and harmonious families that are obedient to Allah s.w.t. Hopefully in this month where our supplications are answered, Allah will fulfil all of the hopes and wishes that we keep in our hearts, Amin Ya Rabbal Alamin.

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