



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Developing Ihsan Within The Family

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْغَنِيِّ الْحَمِيدِ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ بِالرَّحْمَةِ وَالْقَوْلِ السَّدِيدِ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

On this Friday full of barakah, let us strengthen our ties with Allah by affirming our resolution to continue to increase our taqwa in Allah in the true sense of taqwa.

Jemaah,

Spiritual development is one of the most important aspects of the life of a believer. Besides strengthening one's faith (iman), a person's spirituality can be developed through having ihsan in one's life. However, we first need to understand the meaning of *Ihsan*.

Literally, *Ihsan* means to do good. It can be defined as a concept that motivates one to do a job as best as he is able to. The concept of *ihsan* has two main objectives: **firstly**, *Ihsan* in *ibadah* (acts of worship) and **secondly**, *Ihsan* in *muamalat* (dealings with other people). When the angel Jibril a.s. asked Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. regarding *ihsan*, he described it as such:

أَنْ تَعْبُدَ اللَّهَ كَأَنَّكَ تَرَاهُ فَإِنْ لَمْ تَكُنْ تَرَاهُ فَإِنَّهُ يَرَاكَ

Which means: “(*Ihsan*) is that you should serve Allah as though you could see Him, for though you cannot see Him yet (know that) He sees you”. [Hadith reported by Imam Muslim]

Ihsan in worshipping Allah means a believer will perform the act of worship with full concentration (*khusyu'*) and humility (*tawadhu'*), as well as sincerity, as if he is facing Allah. If such feelings are inculcated in a person, he or she will certainly fear transgressing any of Allah's rules.

Friday Jemaah,

Besides maintaining a good relationship with Allah in matters of worship, the concept of *ihsan* is also extended to our interactions with other people – whether it is related to worldly affairs or religious affairs. It is obligatory upon every Muslim to have *Ihsan* not just in solat, fasting, zakat and so on, but also when it comes to his relationship with others such as family, the community, matters regarding traditions and so on. Allah s.w.t.

demands from every believer to act with *ihsan*, and Allah says in the Quran, in Surah Al-Qasas, verse 77:

وَابْتَغِ فِيمَا آتَاكَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ وَلَا تَنْسَ نَصِيبَكَ
مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَأَحْسِنَ كَمَا أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفُسَادَ فِي
الْأَرْضِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ ﴿٧٧﴾

Which means: *“But seek, through that which Allah has given you, the home of the Hereafter; and [yet], do not forget your share of the world. And do good as Allah has done good to you. And desire not corruption in the land. Indeed, Allah does not like corrupters”.*

Blessed jemaah,

I believe that in line with the spirit of celebrating Ramadan, we must aspire to make this month the time to instil and develop the spirit of *Ihsan* in ourselves; be it *Ihsan* in performing acts of worship to Allah s.w.t., as well as *ihsan* to others, including the community.

Let us take advantage of the remaining days in Ramadan to instil in our children a deep sense of love toward performing acts of worship, especially the love of performing their prayers (solat). Explain the importance of one’s relationship with Allah, the Creator of all. It is through the deep appreciation of this relationship that one can develop one’s spirituality and instil *Ihsan* in one’s heart; especially as we are now approaching the

last ten nights of Ramadan. Do not forego the golden opportunity to encourage our family members to strive together to seek the special night of Lailatul Qadar by increasing their acts of worship in the last ten nights of this blessed month. This is the night where every servant of Allah who successfully meets it in a state of worship will be granted rahmat (mercy) and forgiveness.

Friday Jemaah,

Perhaps our children are still very young and are not able to fast yet. Despite that, we should still educate them about the traits of *ihsan* in Islam. These include values such as speaking the truth, sincerity, doing good and so on. These are all noble values that need to be inculcated in our children from a very young age, through their daily practices and activities. For example, asking them to help their mother with the housework, washing the dishes after breaking fast and so on. In fact, our children will be able to learn *ihsan* through their father when he himself helps out both at home and outside, even through a simple act of rolling the mats after terawih prayers.

Jemaah,

Besides striving to increase *ihsan* in our acts of worship, we can also make Ramadan a time for us to purify our wealth by paying zakat, in the hope of spreading *ihsan* to the poor and needy.

Remember that the wealth that we own is a blessing from Allah s.w.t, and that Allah has ordained that when the wealth has fulfilled its haul (length of time) and nisab (amount), then we need to pay zakat from it. Know that one of the reasons we achieve barakah in our sustenance and wealth is through paying zakat from our wealth.

May Allah s.w.t. grant us the opportunity this Ramadan to purify ourselves and our wealth, and that may this lead us to achieving peace and tranquillity in this world and the hereafter. 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.