



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

19 June 2015 / 2 Ramadan 1436

Ramadan: The Month of Instilling Family Values

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَ رَمَضَانَ شَهْرًا مُبَارَكًا. وَفَرَضَ فِيهِ الصِّيَامَ
وَأَعَدَّ فِيهِ فَضْلًا كَبِيرًا وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا. وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
وَخُدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ
صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا أَيُّهَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى
اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

Alhamdulillah we are in the first Friday of Ramadan. Let us renew our intentions to obey all of Allah's commands and avoid what Allah has prohibited upon us. Hopefully by doing so we will achieve the true taqwa by the end of this Ramadan.

Jemaah,

Ramadan is also known as the month of good deeds. It is the month in which Allah s.w.t. grants multiple rewards for the acts of kindness that we undertake. Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. said: *"When Ramadan enters, the gates of Paradise are opened and*

the gates of Hellfire are closed and the devils are chained.”

[Hadith Muttafaq Alaihi]

Imam Al-Qadhi ibn Iyyadh explained that what is meant by “*the gates of Paradise are opened*” is that the opportunities to earn more good deeds and a higher level of devotion is higher in this month compared to other months. Hence let’s ensure that our families and ourselves do not miss the opportunity to reap the rewards and special gifts found in this blessed month. In our efforts to be freed from the Hellfire during this month, why not perform acts of worship and acts of kindness together with our family. Let us remember what Allah s.w.t. says in Surah At-Tahrim verse 6:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ
وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ
وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴿٦﴾

Which means: “O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, over which are [appointed] angels, harsh and severe; they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded.”

Strive to instil and develop noble values within our household this month. For example, teach them to increase their supplication (doa) when they are fasting and when they are

breaking their fast. This is because Rasulullah s.a.w. said: *“The doa (supplication) of a person who is fasting, at the point where he is breaking his fast, is not rejected.”* [Hadith reported by Ibnu Majah]

In fact, Imam At-Thoyalisi reported that the transmitter of this hadith, Abdullah Ibn Amr Ibn Al-As, would ask his wife and children to make doa when they are breaking their fast. While we rush to earn the rewards from terawih prayers and reciting the Quran, do not forget about our spouse and children. Strengthen our relationship with Allah, together with our family. Hopefully by doing so Allah will strengthen our family ties and grant calmness in our household.

From this Ramadan, let us strive to spend more time with our family. Times for breaking of fast, reciting the Quran and praying terawih should motivate us want to rush home and perform these acts together with our family. When our house is filled with acts of kindness and acts of worship, performed sincerely, then insyaAllah the hearts of the occupants of the house will be at peace. Serenity will then be achieved, from Allah’s rahmah (blessings).

Friday jemaah, let us take advantage of this Ramadan to strengthen our ties with others. For example, the mosques and Muslim organisations island wide will have programmes to

enable one to contribute to the entire Singapore community throughout this holy month.

Ensure that our family can contribute their time and energy by volunteering for these activities. Just as how we hope for Allah's blessing and compassion, we should first be compassionate to others. Hopefully as a result of our family contributing their efforts, showing love and care to others regardless of their race or religion, Allah will grant us His love and His rahmah. This is in line with a hadith of Rasulullah s.a.w. which means: *“Anyone who brings ease to the worldly troubles of a believer, then Allah will ease one of his troubles on the Day of Judgement (Qiyamah). Whoever makes easy the affairs of one in difficulty, then Allah Azza wa Jalla will make it easy for him in this world and the hereafter. Anyone who covers the shame of a Muslim, then Allah will hide his shame in this world and the hereafter. Allah will always help a servant for as long as the servant helps his brother.”*

In line with the spirit of this hadith, let us strive to be Singaporeans who are concerned and considerate toward the needs of others. For example, when we drive to the masjid to perform our terawih prayers, please do not park at areas that will block traffic flow. Educate our family that it is our responsibility as Muslims to bring a sense of hope to others, and not just to fellow Muslims. Hence if we chance upon opportunities to help non-Muslim organisations, even though it

is for community service, we should grab the opportunity to spread blessings to all. By doing so we will become ambassadors of Islam that can elevate the image of our religion.

Hopefully this Ramadan, we will become among those who will strive hard to achieve Allah's pleasure. May Allah cleanse our hearts and guard the sincerity in our family in doing good deeds. May this Ramadan bring about more goodness to our family, the nation and us. 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.