



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

20 November 2015 / 8 Safar 1437

The Potential For Every Individual To Contribute

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 عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ 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 boost our taqwa to Allah s.w.t. by obeying all of His commands and abstaining from what He has prohibited. May Allah s.w.t. grant us with His guidance, insya-Allah. Amin.

Jemaah,

The sermons throughout this month have reminded us of the importance for every Muslim to seek religious knowledge. And this holds true for every Muslim, no matter their age - whether

you are a mother, father, grandparent, a youth or just a child. In fact, last week's sermon highlighted the need to give second chances to others, and to provide them with the opportunities to change and to return to the path of Allah.

This week, I would like to draw your attention to another special group within our society, who may need assistance and care from us. These are the individuals with special needs. Even though they may seem to have physical challenges, I am confident that they too have the potential to contribute to the religion and the community. Allah s.w.t. reminds us, in a story about how individuals with special needs should not be seen as a burden to society. Rather, we need to think of and find solutions on how to ensure that they are able to join us in developing our society and bringing it to the next level.

Beloved jemaah,

Rasulullah s.a.w. was once approached by a blind Companion by the name of Abdullah Ibn Ummi Maktum r.a. He came to the Prophet s.a.w. to seek religious guidance. However, at that moment, Rasulullah s.a.w. was spreading the message of Islam to the leaders of Quraish. Hence he did not pay attention to Abdullah. And thus, Allah s.w.t. revealed the verses of Surah Abasa, part of it as follows:

عَبَسَ وَتَوَلَّى ۝١ أَن جَاءَهُ الْأَعْمَى ۝٢ وَمَا يُدْرِيكَ لَعَلَّهٗ يُزَكَّى ۝٣
 أَوْ يَذَّكَّرُ فَتَنْفَعَهُ الذِّكْرَى ۝٤

Which means: *“The Prophet frowned and turned away. Because there came to him the blind man, [interrupting]. But what would make you perceive, [O Muhammad], that perhaps he might be purified. Or be reminded and the remembrance would benefit him?”*

The verses that have just been read are a form of reminder from Allah s.w.t. to ensure that we give the same attention to those whom Allah has tested with physical limitations. They might have physical challenges, but it may be that Allah has blessed them with pure hearts and sharp minds that we have not been blessed with. Apart from that, they also have the right to seek knowledge and be guided.

Friday jemaah,

It is thus pertinent for us to understand the lessons from this event where Allah s.w.t. sends a reminder regarding the lack of attention given to Abdullah Ibn Ummi Maktum r.a.

Do not ever feel that we are better than those whom Allah is testing with limitations. Perhaps Allah has granted us with more sustenance to be able to help those who are in need. In a

hadith Rasulullah s.a.w. said: *“You have been given help and rizq (sustenance) because of those in need among you.”*
[Hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari]

Jemaah,

As true believers, we need to emulate the character and manners of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. who gave everyone the opportunity to contribute to the society without looking at the limitations that an individual faces. In fact, Rasulullah s.a.w. focused on one’s potential and the contribution he could put forth.

Even though he was blind, Ibnu Ummi Maktum r.a. was appointed by Rasulullah s.a.w. numerous times to be in charge of Madinah while the Prophet s.a.w. was away from Madinah. And because he was among the earliest companions to embrace Islam and had learnt directly from the Prophet s.a.w., he was sent by Rasulullah to migrate to Madinah before the Prophet and was tasked to teach Quran and the religion to the people of Madinah.

This shows that, despite one being visually impaired, he does not have to live in darkness all the time. This is because when the heart is full with knowledge and understanding, the visually impaired may be more enlightened and wise than those who can see, and even become teachers to them, such as the story of Abdullah Ibn Ummi Maktum.

Blessed jemaah,

For the past few weeks, we have been reminded to ensure that every member of the society receives a comprehensive Islamic education that also meets the context of our society. This is to ensure that we are able to develop a resilient community.

We have to build a resilient spirit to be able to be true ambassadors of Islam to the world. This is especially in a climate of numerous humanitarian tragedies and bloody conflicts in many places around the world today. Destruction and devastation, murder and the spilling of blood, violent attacks which are not only restricted to areas of conflict; these are the events that are featured in international news almost every day. Paris, Beirut, Syria, Iraq are some of the places which, the mere uttering of its name today, will rip the hearts of everyone who loves peace.

We have never, and will never, accept any act that destroy lives, property, wealth and peace. No matter who the mastermind and perpetrator are, and wherever it happens.

This is a big problem and challenge faced all over the world. Whether among the Muslim or non-Muslim community, we all feel the pain and suffering. The responsibility to address this problem should not lie in one group alone, as much as there should not be any group absolving themselves from this shared responsibility.

As part of the Muslim community, what is the role that we can play? My brothers, we need to strengthen our resolve to truly understand, apply and reflect the good values that Islam has taught us. Understand Islam by truly appreciating its message, and by diligently seeking knowledge from correct and true sources and teachers. We need to continue to reflect the true image of Islam – a way of life that develops and improves humanity - and not an image of Islam that destroys and destructs. This objective cannot be attained without true knowledge and understanding of Islam, as has been highlighted repeatedly in the sermons delivered over the past few weeks.

May Allah s.w.t. grant us the determination and resolve to be true ambassadors of His religion. We ask from Allah s.w.t. that He continues to protect our family, community and country from evil. May Allah s.w.t. restore peace and tranquillity and destroy every evil and destruction on this earth. 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.