



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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**Instilling The Love For The Prophet: Lessons From The
Story Of Sawad Ibn Ghaziyah r.a.**

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَحَاطَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عِلْمًا وَقَضَىٰ بِمَا يُرِيدُ حِكْمَةً
وَ حُكْمًا، أَنْعَمَ بِالنَّعَمِ ابْتِلَاءً وَامْتِحَانًا، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
وَ حُدَّهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ذُو الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا
مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَفْضَلُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَ مَصْبَاحُ الظَّلَامِ، اللَّهُمَّ
صَلِّ عَلَىٰ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَ عَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا
كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَيْثُ مَا كُنْتُمْ، فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ
يَعْلَمُ سِرَّكُمْ وَ عَلَانِيَتَكُمْ

Blessed Friday jemaah,

Let us strive together to boost our taqwa to Allah s.w.t by obeying His commands and abstaining from what Allah has prohibited upon us. Hopefully by doing so we will strengthen our iman, and granted true love for Allah s.w.t. and His Rasul s.a.w

Jemaah,

Throughout this month we have reflected upon the stories of several companions r.a. in the hope of learning the various

lessons from their life stories, and to extract examples that we can relate to in our lives. Today, I will highlight another Companion, whose story we should take time to appreciate. Even though his name is not often heard, we often hear the story of his deep love for Rasulullah s.a.w. He was Sawad ibn Ghaziyah Al-Ansari.

When our beloved Messenger s.a.w. was straightening the lines formed by the companions or sahabah, Rasulullah s.a.w. used an arrow as a tool to help straighten their rows. When he walked past Sawad ibn Ghaziyah, Rasulullah s.a.w. found that Sawad was not standing in line. And so the Messenger of Allah hit him with the arrow to bring him in line. The Prophet s.a.w. said, *“Stand in line, O Sawad ibn Ghaziyah!”* Sawad then replied, *“Ya Rasulullah, you have hurt me and Allah s.w.t. has sent you with right and justice.”* Rasulullah s.a.w. immediately took off the shirt that covered his stomach so that Sawad could retaliate. Instead, Sawad quickly embraced the Prophet and kissed his stomach. And Rasulullah s.a.w. asked him: *“Why did you do that?”* Sawad replied, *“Ya Rasulullah, you see what is before us and I may not survive the battle and as this is my last time with you I want my skin to touch yours”.* [Sirah Ibn Hisham]

Respected jemaah,

This story depicts the deep love the companions had for Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. Their ties with Rasulullah s.a.w. is a relationship bound by their firm faith and spirituality. Their love

for him made them resilient in facing various challenges and trials in their lives. It is this profound love that gave them the spirit and motivation to bring themselves closer to Allah s.w.t. Let us not be like those who only remember Allah and return to Him during difficult times, and yet when Allah brings them out of the difficulty, they become negligent and heedless again. Allah s.w.t says in surah Yunus verse 12:

وَإِذَا مَسَّ الْإِنْسَانَ الضُّرُّ دَعَانَا لِجَنْبِهِ أَوْ قَاعِدًا أَوْ قَائِمًا فَلَمَّا
 كَشَفْنَا عَنْهُ ضُرَّهُ مَرَّ كَأَن لَّمْ يَدْعُنَا إِلَى ضُرِّ مَسَّهُ كَذَلِكَ زِيَرَ
 لِلْمُسْرِفِينَ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٢﴾

Which means: *“And when affliction touches man, he calls upon Us, whether lying on his side or sitting or standing; but when We remove from him his affliction, he continues [in disobedience] as if he had never called upon Us to [remove] an affliction that touched him. Thus is made pleasing to the transgressors that which they have been doing.”*

Beloved jemaah,

Loving Rasulullah s.a.w. completes one’s faith. In a hadith reported by Imam Bukhari and Muslim, the Prophet s.a.w. said: *“None of you will have faith till he loves me more than his father, his children and all mankind”*.

However, this love requires an honest and sincere commitment from us. There are those who on the surface seem to love

Rasulullah s.a.w. They wear thobes or jubah, call out slogans to make the selawat and paste posters about loving Rasulallah s.a.w. There are also those who fervently express that they live as close to the sunnah and stay away from acts that can be deemed as bid'ah. Their solat, fasting and other acts of worship reflects as if they are very pious people.

Sadly though, for some of these people, their akhlak or manners, do not reflect their commitment to sunnah. They like to uncover the faults of others and put others down. They have an unhealthy relationship with their families; always fighting with their family members, for example. They are rude and callous to their colleagues at work. As neighbours, they do not exude any warmth and kindness, and are cold and unfriendly. Rasulallah s.a.w. warned about this in a hadith:: *“There will be a group from my people who will recite the Quran, they think that reading the Quran will help them but it will harm them. The prayers they offer do not go pass their throats.”* [Hadith reported by Imam Muslim]

This hadith describes a person who is seemingly outwardly more religious, or feels that he is more religious or wara'. However, sadly his religiosity becomes a tool for syaitan to deceive him. Without realising it, syaitan whispers to him to feel proud and arrogant because he is now more religious, and to feel that he is better than others. This feelings will then cause one to, on the surface, love the Prophet and is seemingly

emulating him. However, internally, or spiritually, he is not close to the Prophet s.a.w., nor is he upholding the sunnah of being sincere in one's religiosity – that is to do so for the sake of Allah and not to show off to others, or out of the desire for others to think well of us.

As a result, while he may be performing more religious rituals, these acts of worship do not make him a better person, as he does not reflect the beautiful akhlak of Rasulullah s.a.w. Hence my dear jema'ah, be careful from falling into this trap of syaitan. It can happen to anyone, no matter his religious orientation or inclination, or the groups he mixes with.

Beloved Jemaah,

Strive to purify your hearts and souls with sincerity in practising the religion and upholding the sunnah of Rasulullah s.a.w. for the sake of Allah s.w.t. Sheikh Nurudin Al-'Iteir, a scholar or ulama of hadith, said there are several ways one can instill true love for Prophet Muhammad s.a.w.:

First: Obeying what Rasulullah s.a.w. has taught us and sincerely staying away from what has been prohibited upon us for the sake of Allah s.w.t.

Second: To increase reading the sirah of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. and his hadith.

Third: To increase making selawat upon Rasulullah s.a.w.

Fourth: To continuously make doa to Allah s.w.t. to be able to meet with the Prophet s.a.w., if not in our dreams while we are still alive, then hopefully in the hereafter.

Blessed Friday jemaah,

The love Saidina Sawad ibn Ghaziyah had for Rasulullah s.a.w. was pure love that was a result of his iman and takwa to Allah. Such love is a blessing bestowed by Allah s.w.t. And it is not impossible for Allah s.w.t. to grant us such profound love for Rasulullah s.a.w. without our own efforts and sincere sacrifices.

May we be the ummah of Rasulullah s.a.w. who will always love him by following the message that he brought and emulating his actions, and may we be granted his Syafaat in the hereafter so that we will achieve the highest level of success in the sight of Allah s.w.t. 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.