



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

4 September 2015 / 20 Zulkaedah 1436

Al-Quran As Guidance: Lessons From

Surah Al-Kahfi

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 عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ أَفْضَلُ الْأَنَامِ وَ مِصْبَاحُ الظَّلَامِ، اَللّٰهُمَّ
صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَ عَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا
كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَيْثُ مَا كُنْتُمْ، فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ
يَعْلَمُ سِرَّكُمْ وَ عَلَانِيَتَكُمْ

Blessed jemaah,

In the last few weeks, the Friday sermons have emphasised on the importance of seeking accurate and correct knowledge about the religion. Hopefully by doing so, our takwa toward Allah will blossom and strengthen further. Hopefully this will motivate us to continue obeying all of Allah's commands and avoiding what He has prohibited upon us.

Jemaah,

The first step that we can take is to try and appreciate the teachings found in the Quran. Allah s.w.t. says in surah Al-Kahfi verses 1 and 2:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ عَلَى عَبْدِهِ الْكِتَابَ وَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ عِوَجًا ۝
قِيمًا لِيُنذِرَ بَأْسًا شَدِيدًا مِمَّنْ لَدُنْهُ وَيُبَشِّرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ
يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا حَسَنًا ۝

Which means: “[All] praise is [due] to Allah, who has sent down upon His Servant the Book and has not made therein any deviance. [He has made it] straight, to warn of severe punishment from Him and to give good tidings to the believers who do righteous deeds that they will have a good reward.”.

Jemaah,

Al-Quran is indeed a blessing from Allah for the entire universe, through which Allah s.w.t. guides us to the straight path, and gives glad tidings to those who have faith; and clear warnings to those who have erred. Whenever Friday approaches, we will be reminded to uphold the sunnah of the Prophet s.a.w. that is to recite one particular surah from the noble Quran. Rasulullah s.a.w. said: “Whoever reads Surah Al-Kahfi on Friday; Allah will grant him light between the two Fridays.” [Hadith reported by Al-Hakim and Al-Baihaqi]

Hence, I would like to call upon all to try and recite surah Al-Kahfi, the 18th surah in the Quran, on every Friday. At the same time, make sure that we understand its meaning and the stories and lessons contained in the surah. Hopefully we will not be among those the Prophet s.a.w. described as reading the Quran but not reading beyond their throats, whereby the meanings of the verses do not touch their hearts and move their souls.

Friday Jemaah,

Saidatina Aisyah r.a. when asked about the Prophet's akhlak, responded: *"Verily, the akhlak of Rasulullah is the Quran"*. [Hadith reported by Imam Muslim] The hadith means that Nabi s.a.w. will study the teachings and contents of the Quran, and he would then abide by them, and abstain from what is forbidden in the Quran. Hence, our relationship with the Quran should also be as such.

Blessed Jemaah,

When was the last time we looked at the Quran? Do we have a copy of the Quran or an application (on our smart gadgets) that will enable us to look at the Quran, even for a while, daily? Sometimes we hear people saying that we must enliven Islam, we must let Islam triumph, but sadly they have yet to make the Quran their companion. Their hearts are not close to the Quran. It is even sadder if they simply copy and paste Quranic verses as their Facebook statuses, or upload to Twitter and Instagram,

simply to show that they are pious but they themselves fail to understand the meaning of these verses; what more to practice it. If this happens, then we should strive to change our attitude towards the Quran. It is feared that it might instead make our relationship with the Quran even further. Allah s.w.t. says:

وَقَالَ الرَّسُولُ يَا رَبِّ إِنَّ قَوْمِي اتَّخَذُوا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ مَهْجُورًا ﴿٣٠﴾

Which means: *“And the Messenger has said, “O my Lord, indeed my people have taken this Qur'an as [a thing] abandoned.”.* [Surah al-Furqan verse 30]

Imam Ibnu Katsir explained that the term *“Mahjura”*: which means “abandoned” has several meanings, among them: A person who does not want to try and understand the meaning of the verses in the Quran.

This is a trait of our biggest enemy syaitan alaihi laknatullah. In surah Al-Kahfi, verse 50, Allah reminds us of the story of Iblis. He knew the truth but chose to turn away from the truth. He neglected Allah’s command because of his ego and arrogance. Allah s.w.t. says:

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ كَانَ مِنَ الْجِنِّ فَفَسَقَ عَنْ أَمْرِ رَبِّهِ أَفَتَتَّخِذُونَهُ وَذُرِّيَّتَهُ أَوْلِيَاءَ مِنْ دُونِي وَهُمْ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ بِئْسَ لِلظَّالِمِينَ بَدَلًا ﴿٥٠﴾

Which means: *“And [mention] when We said to the angels, “Prostrate to Adam,” and they prostrated, except for Iblis. He*

was of the jinn and departed from the command of his Lord. Then will you take him and his descendants as allies other than Me while they are enemies to you? Wretched it is for the wrongdoers as an exchange.”

Beloved Jemaah,

We often busy ourselves looking for enemies that we can see and are bent on defeating them. But we forget about syaitan, the enemy that is clearly present, and in fact, it is said in a hadith that syaitan can flow in our bodies and influence our bodies and our hearts, just like the blood running through our veins. Our children need to be reminded often to guard against syaitan’s whispers, pleadings and provocations which can be very tempting. We are unable to be with our children at all times. And we are not able to monitor them every second. Hence, we should develop a sense of immunity in ourselves, and our children, against syaitan – that is to be firm toward syaitan’s influence. Teach them that whenever they feel like doing a bad deed or a sin, quickly remember Allah and move away to a better situation or environment. Inculcate in them the habit of making zikir so that their hearts will be protected by Allah s.w.t.

Rasulullah s.a.w. said: *“Whoever says: La ilaha illallah wahdahu la syarikalah, lahul mulku wa lahul hamdu wa huwa ‘ala kulli syai-in qadir (There is no god but Allah, alone, without any partner. The Kingdom and praise belong to Him and He*

has power over everything) 100 times in a day, then he obtains the reward equivalent to freeing ten slaves, and is also recorded the reward of doing 100 good deeds and 100 of his bad deeds are erased, and he is protected from syaitan's temptations throughout the day until the afternoon.” [Muttafaq alaihi]

May Allah s.w.t. enliven our hearts with a deep understanding of the Quran and all our actions be guided by the light of the Quran. Hopefully, by being close to the Quran and practising the teachings found in the Quran, Allah will protect us and our families from danger and bad influences in this world and the hereafter. Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

بَارِكْ اللَّهُ 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 اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.