



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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The Worldly Life And The Importance Of Being Grateful

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، الَّذِي بَعَثَ مُحَمَّدًا بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا
وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا
شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ
وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، صَلَاةً
وَسَلَامًا دَائِمِينَ مُتَلَازِمِينَ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ،
إِتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِي وَنَفْسِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

Let us increase our takwa to Allah s.w.t. by striving hard to obey all His commands and abstaining from what Allah has prohibited upon us. It is only with takwa that it will be easier for us to attain Allah's help in order to achieve His pleasure (redha).

Jemaah,

As a continuation to the lessons contained in surah Al-Kahfi that we discussed in the past sermons, today I will touch on another story discussed in surah Al-Kahfi. It is related to the blessings of

living in this world, and how we should always be grateful to Allah for the blessing. Allah says in Surah Al-Kahfi, verse 32:

﴿ وَأَضْرِبْ لَهُم مِّثْلًا مَّثَلًا رَجُلَيْنِ جَعَلْنَا لِأَحَدِهِمَا جَنَّتَيْنِ مِنْ أَعْنَابٍ
وَحَفَفْنَاهُمَا بِنَخْلٍ وَجَعَلْنَا بَيْنَهُمَا زُرْعًا ﴾

Which means: *“And present to them an example of two men: We granted to one of them two gardens of grapevines, and We bordered them with palm trees and placed between them [fields of] crops.”*

At the beginning of this story, Allah describes two men: one was bestowed blessings in the form of wealth, crops and land, whereas the other did not own such wealth. Allah s.w.t. then describes how the one who received the blessing of wealth was proud of his wealth, and only focused on the wealth but not the One who bestowed the wealth upon him, and it was as if he ignored the Bestower of Wealth. This bad attitude is explained in surah Al-Kahfi:

﴿ وَكَانَ لَهُ ثَمَرٌ فَقَالَ لِصَاحِبِهِ وَهُوَ يُحَاوِرُهُ أَنَا أَكْثَرُ مِنْكَ مَالًا وَأَعَزُّ
نَفَرًا ﴾ ﴿ ٣٤ ﴾ وَدَخَلَ جَنَّتَهُ وَهُوَ ظَالِمٌ لِنَفْسِهِ قَالَ مَا أَظُنُّ أَنْ تَبِيدَ
هَذِهِ أَبَدًا ﴾ ﴿ ٣٥ ﴾

Which means: *“And he had fruit, so he said to his companion while he was conversing with him, "I am greater than you in wealth and mightier in [numbers of] men." And he entered his*

garden while he was unjust to himself. He said, "I do not think that this will perish - ever."

Friday jemaah,

Such is the attitude of humankind who do not make iman (faith) as the strongest pillar in their lives, assuming that everything that he owns will remain eternally and thus, his dependence on Allah becomes weak. In fact, they even feel that the success that they have attained is a result of only their hard work. In this case, they have indirectly ignored Allah's help in order for them to attain that success. He has forgotten that it is Allah that grants success in education, career and also life, to him and his family. He has forgotten that everything belongs to Allah and will return to Him.

In the verses that were just recited, Allah s.w.t. describes the story of a man who did not own much wealth but had firm faith in Allah. His faith made him calm and he felt that Allah was always with him. He was confident that Allah will grant him something better because he had a deep sense of humility and strong dependence only to Allah s.w.t.

Blessed jemaah,

In a cosmopolitan society like ours, success is often measured by wealth or one's status within the community. Respect is sometimes given to another because he is wealthy and is of

high stature, and thus that is why many people want to amass wealth and live lavishly.

Islam does not prevent or discourage a person to be wealthy and to work hard to achieve worldly success, for it is better than to hold out one's hand and beg for help. However, while we work hard to strive for worldly success, the objective should be clear that the wealth that we want to achieve is not just for personal gains, and not to be deluded that money is everything. Rather, the wealth and success that Allah has blessed us with should bring us much closer to Allah s.w.t. We need to always remember that the truth of the matter is that whatever we have earned and gained was achieved only with Allah's permission and help.

Hence, when a true believer achieves any form of blessing and rezeki (sustenance) from Allah, he will remember that Allah is the Sustainer. He will not neglect his duties to Allah, The One who Gives, just because he is too focused on amassing wealth. In fact, he will be more diligent in remembering Allah and leveraging on the blessings bestowed upon him to benefit others. Wealth is not our ultimate goal in life, but as a means to attain Allah's pleasure. Rasulullah s.a.w. reminded us in a doa he taught to us:

وَلَا تَجْعَلْ مُصِيبَتَنَا فِي دِينِنَا، وَلَا تَجْعَلِ الدُّنْيَا أَكْبَرَ هَمِّنَا، وَلَا
مَبْلَغَ عِلْمِنَا، وَلَا تُسَلِّطْ عَلَيْنَا مَنْ لَا يَرْحَمُنَا.

Which means: *“And do not make it a trial for us in in our religious affairs, and do not make this world our greatest ambition and the peak of our knowledge, and do not make us those who do not love us to have power over us”*. [Hadith reported by At-Tirmidzi and Hakim]

Every nikmat or blessing is also a test from Allah, whether the receiver will be more obedient to Allah s.w.t. or will instead, use the blessing given to him to fulfil his desires and bring himself further from Allah.

Beloved jemaah,

In verse 42 of surah Al-Kahfi, Allah s.w.t. describes what then happens to the man who was not grateful for the blessings that Allah has bestowed upon him. Allah says, which means: *“And his fruits were encompassed [by ruin]”*. And only then did he regret but it was too late. This reminds us that nothing in this world is permanent. Allah s.w.t. gives, and at the same time He has the power to take back these gifts at any time. Hence, when things are easy for us and we are enjoying many blessings from Allah, do not be arrogant and forget who we really are. Ensure that we fulfil our obligations- paying zakat when it is due as well as ensuring the rights of the wife and

children are met. Hopefully by doing so, the barakah in our lives will be preserved. Jemaah, we never know but today we may be giving, and perhaps tomorrow we will be the one receiving. Hence, plan our needs and that of our families' wisely and with prudence. That is one of the ways we show our gratitude for the blessings given by Allah. Come, let us take advantage of these moments when making doa is mustahab, to extend our hope to Allah s.w.t.

Ya Allah, The Most Loving, make us your humble servants who are always grateful to You, fix our hearts so that we will always love You no matter what situation we are in and we are tested with, protect us Ya Allah from any matters that may weaken our iman. Verily, we are your weak servants so strengthen our iman so that we can continue to uphold the religion in every aspect of our lives and in all our actions. 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.