



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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**Syukur: Utilising Our Blessings Responsibly**

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا  
وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ  
وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ  
وَصَفِيُّ اللَّهِ مِنْ خَلْقِهِ وَحَبِيبُهُ إِمَامُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَسَيِّدُ الْمُرْسَلِينَ اللَّهُمَّ  
صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا.  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ  
مُسْلِمُونَ

Blessed Friday jemaah,

Let us increase our takwa to Allah s.w.t. Let us strive to make full use the blessings bestowed upon us to obey Allah and abstain from His prohibitions. Hopefully by doing so, Allah s.w.t. will shower our family with His love and mercy.

Jemaah,

For the past few weeks we have been reminded of the importance of being grateful – it gives us the strength and resilience to carry on with our lives. Being grateful also ensures

that we do not forget Allah, the Bestower of all these blessings or *nikmat*.

This trait is so important that Prophet Sulaiman a.s. prayed to Allah asking that he be instilled with this value. Allah says in Surah An-Naml verse 19:

فَنَبَسَّمَ ضَاحِكًا مِّن قَوْلِهَا وَقَالَ رَبِّ أَوْزِعْنِي أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ  
الَّتِي أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ وَعَلَىٰ وَالِدَيَّ وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا تَرْضَاهُ وَأُدْخِلْنِي  
بِرَحْمَتِكَ فِي عِبَادِكَ الصَّالِحِينَ ﴿١٩﴾

Which means: *“So [Sulaiman] smiled, amused at her speech, and said, “My Lord, enable me to be grateful for Your favour which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and to do righteousness of which You approve. And admit me by Your mercy into [the ranks of] Your righteous servants.”*

The supplication (doa) of Prophet Sulaiman is very beautiful and should be incorporated as part of our own daily supplications. It is also a reminder not to ignore the blessings that Allah s.w.t. has given us. Jemaah, as we have previously discussed, true gratitude is when we use the blessings and gifts bestowed upon us to always be of service to Him, and to bring ourselves closer to Him. This doa is a reminder that blessings from Allah s.w.t. should encourage us and motivate us even more to become devout Muslims, to carry out more good deeds

and to help others. In fact, the verse is a reminder that we must ensure that we do not take for granted the blessings that we are bestowed with.

Dear jemaah, let us thus ponder carefully: to what extent have we used the blessings we are bestowed with for good causes, as compared to the blessings that we are still taking for granted?

Rasulullah s.a.w. once reminded us in a hadith: *“Take benefit of five before five: Your youth before your old age, your health before your sickness, your wealth before your poverty, your free time before you are preoccupied, and your life before your death.”* [Hadith reported by al-Hakim and al-Baihaqi]

Jemaah, how have we been spending our time on this earth? Should Allah were to will that our time on earth is over, are we prepared to meet Him with the amount of deeds that we have? Have we done enough goodness to leave behind for the living? If we were questioned on the time we had on earth, or whether we had spent our assets on His path, and whether we have practised the knowledge that we learned; what would answers be?

Jemaah, these are questions that we need to always ask ourselves; so as to ensure that we do not get carried away by the existing comforts and luxuries.

For example, when we are still healthy, strong and energetic, we may feel that there is not a need to watch our diet and have a healthy lifestyle. When we are wealthy, we may not think of putting aside some money for our future, or to extend help to those in need. When we are still young, we assume that we will have time to perform acts of worship when we are older and so we spend our youth by wasting time and partying away.

However, do remember that just as how our time here in this world is numbered, the blessings Allah has given us are also not eternal. Do we know when will the time when we cease to exist? Do we know if tomorrow we will still be healthy and can pray and perform other acts of worship like we can today? Life is full of surprises. For example, the economy today is very uncertain. Hence, we need to watch and plan our spending wisely so that in the event that we were to lose our source of income, we will have enough savings to tide us through and meet our needs. Or if we are blessed with more during times of difficulties, we can then extend our assistance to those in need.

Dear jemaah, it is a form of gratitude to ensure that we utilize our blessings with conscience and responsibility. Do not wait for

disaster to strike before we start appreciating the blessings that Allah has bestowed upon us.

It is not too late for each and every one of us here to reflect upon our lives, take stock, plan and make changes to our lifestyle. This is to ensure that every nikmat that we have been given – whether it is the blessing of age, wealth, family, nature, health and peace in our country – will be fully and responsibly maximised.

Ya Allah, The Most Giving and The Most Loving, we raise our hands and we humble ourselves to you, seeking that You bless us with the value of gratitude. Make us among those who do not let Your blessings go to waste. Enliven the sense of gratitude in our hearts so that we are able to use the blessings You have bestowed upon us for good causes. Bless us, Ya Allah, with a sense of gratitude that will lead us to strength, resilience and peace. Bless us with peace and tranquillity that are born out of gratitude to You. Bless our family with happiness and gratitude, and grant our country peace and harmony.

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.