



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Achieving The Objective of Fasting

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَ رَمَضَانَ شَهْرًا مُبَارَكًا. وَفَرَضَ فِيهِ الصِّيَامَ
وَأَعَدَّ فِيهِ فَضْلًا كَبِيرًا وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا. وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ
صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا أَيُّهَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى
اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Blessed Friday jemaah,

In this holy month of Ramadan, let us aspire to increase our taqwa to Allah. May Allah s.w.t. accept all our good deeds and acts of worship. Amin!

Jemaah,

Allah s.w.t. has explained in the Quran the main objective as to why we are commanded to fast. This is in line with what Allah says in surah Al-Baqarah verse 183:

يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُنِبَ عَلَيْكُمْ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُنِبَ عَلَى
الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾

Which means: “O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous.”

However, what does it mean by being righteous or having taqwa as meant in this verse? What are the features of a person who is righteous?

Let us then reflect upon verses 133-134 in Surah Ali-Imran:

﴿١٣٣﴾ وَسَارِعُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ
أُعِدَّتْ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿١٣٣﴾ الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ فِي السَّرَّاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَالْكَاظِمِينَ الْغَيْظَ
وَالْعَافِينَ عَنِ النَّاسِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿١٣٤﴾

Which means: “And hasten to forgiveness from your Lord and a garden as wide as the heavens and earth, prepared for the righteous. Who spend [in the cause of Allah] during ease and hardship and who restrain anger and who pardon the people - and Allah loves the doers of good.”

These verses emphasise that taqwa does not merely mean keeping to ourselves and thinking of our own fate. In fact, the verses remind us that as we improve our relationship with Allah, it should drive us to bring hope and to extend help to the needy around us. A righteous person is not just one who merely sits

on the prayer mat and continuously making tasbih. Instead, he is one who makes tasbih and at the same time, gets on his hands and feet to help those in need. As he enjoins good relations with others, he will keep his lips moist making zikir, remembering Allah. And among his acts of worship is being kind to his neighbours, smiling and saying good things to them. That is how a righteous person is – as he improves his relationship with Allah, he also improves his relationship with humankind.

Let us look at a hadith. Rasulullah s.a.w said:

لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّى يُحِبَّ لِأَخِيهِ مَا يُحِبُّ لِنَفْسِهِ

Which means: *“None of you has faith until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.”* [Hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Notice how Rasulullah s.a.w. associated iman with keeping good relations with others. Imam An-Nawawi was of the opinion that what is meant by “brother” in this hadith is our fellow humankind, regardless of race, religion and inclinations.

Jemaah,

This is a holy month, a month of goodness, and a month of doing *Al-Ma'ruf*. Ramadan is the perfect opportunity for us to ensure that our ties with the community are maintained. This is what it means by achieving taqwa. Taqwa motivates us to find

opportunities to do good, spread ihsan and help those who are in need.

Alhamdulillah, this spirit has always been kept alive within our community. We have seen, and continue to witness, good traditions such as sharing our meals with our neighbours. Many are also inspired to carry out community service projects throughout Ramadan, including helping the poor and needy, preparing meals for the breaking of fast and so on.

Jemaah,

If we take a step back and reflect upon our acts of worship or ibadah throughout Ramadan, they are meant to develop our taqwa. We endure thirst and hunger in the day, so that we can try to develop empathy for those who are less fortunate than us. The same goes for paying zakat fitrah in this month. Its aim is to ensure that we share our wealth with those who are in need. Hopefully by doing so, Allah will widen the doors of goodness for us, just as we have helped to ease the plight of others.

Jemaah,

Let us ensure that we do not waste food and indulge in wastage in our spending – whether it is for breaking of our fast, or in our household spending. When we buy too much food, the excess ends up being thrown away. Yet, we all know that at this moment, there are thousands of refugees who are homeless,

without a roof or decent shelter over their heads, no food to feed their hungry families and no clean clothes. In fact, we may also have neighbours who are not as blessed to enjoy food that is as delicious as the spread we enjoy on our table. So, instead of spending excessively, is it not better if we put aside that money to be donated to them for their Ramadan needs?

True taqwa is when our hearts whisper such feelings to us. This is because, a heart that is filled with taqwa cannot bear to see others in misery while we live excessively.

Beloved jemaah,

Grab the opportunity of this blessed month to strive to achieve that level of taqwa. Build our relationship and ihsan to Allah s.w.t. and at the same time, develop ihsan (compassion) for others. Make this Ramadan, the Ramadan where we change ourselves, shape our character and values. Let's make this Ramadan a Ramadan that will have a positive impact on our lives; not one that leaves us without us having changed for the better.

Rasulullah s.a.w. once reminded us that the biggest losers are those who left Ramadan with their sins unforgiven, and those who left Ramadan without having grabbed the merits of this month. He is still living a life full of sins and mistakes, instead of

taking advantage of Ramadan as the month of mercy and forgiveness.

Hopefully as we strive to gain the merits in this month, we are able to share its beauty with our family members, and at the same time, develop a harmonious and loving family that is obedient to Allah s.w.t. Ramadan is a month where supplications are being fulfilled. So let us pray that Allah will fulfil every hope and dream that we have in our hearts. Jemaah, let us raise our hands and seek from Allah s.w.t.:

اللَّهُمَّ لَكَ الْحَمْدُ عَلَى مَا يَسَّرْتَ لَنَا مِنْ صِيَامٍ وَقِيَامٍ، وَلَكَ الشُّكْرُ عَلَى مَا أَعْطَيْتَنَا مِنَ النِّعَمِ. اللَّهُمَّ ارْحَمْنَا بِالْقُرْآنِ، وَاجْعَلْهُ لَنَا إِمَامًا وَنُورًا وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً، اللَّهُمَّ ذَكَّرْنَا مِنْهُ مَا نَسِينَا، وَعَلَّمْنَا مِنْهُ مَا جَهِلْنَا، وَارْزُقْنَا تِلَاوَتَهُ آنَاءَ اللَّيْلِ وَأَطْرَافِ النَّهَارِ، وَاجْعَلْهُ لَنَا حُجَّةً يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ.

Allahumma ya Rahman, ya Rahim. Make the Quran the light that enlighten our hearts, the guidance in our lives, the cure to our sadness, the cure of all our illnesses, and the redeemer of our sins. Make us your servants who uphold the Quran, and make us amongst whom You are pleased with.

Allahumma ya Khabir, ya Alim. Ya Allah, we beg of You, grant us the love for Your book, and the love to recite Your book. Grant us the love to learn about Your book, the love to obey all

of Your commands. And grant us the fear of Your punishment.
And the desire for Your maghfirah. 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.