



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

27 May 2016 / 20 Syaaban 1437H

Spreading the Message of Mercy

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْغَنِيِّ الْحَمِيدِ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ بِالرَّحْمَةِ وَالْقَوْلِ السَّدِيدِ، اَللَّهُمَّ 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,

In several days, Muslims around the world will usher in the month of Ramadan al-Mubarak. Let us take advantage of the last few days of Sya'ban to be more diligent in our preparations to welcome Ramadan. May Allah Azza wa Jalla put barakah in our planning and efforts.

Jemaah, Allah s.w.t has clearly explained His objective of sending Prophet Muhammad s.a.w as a messenger. Allah says in the Quran:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٠٧﴾

Which means: *“And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds.”* [Surah Al-Anbiyā’ 21:107]

If we were to study this verse, we will find two very interesting points for Muslims to ponder on. **First:** Allah has sent Prophet Muhammad s.a.w to spread the message of Islam, which is meant to be a blessing to all. **Second:** Prophet Muhammad s.a.w himself was a message from Allah – he was a message of mercy to the universe.

Through these lessons, we are given a picture of how Rasulullah s.a.w was the epitome of blessings and mercy, and wherever he went, he would always radiate peace and goodness.

It is this value of mercy that shaped the lives of the companions (sahabah), the Tābi’īn and the Tabī’ Tābi’īn. We see them emulating this value when they brought the message of Islam to the various parts of the world. These are the people who strived hard and were diligent in ensuring that they were at the forefront of spreading noble values and principles to all of humankind. They thus rightfully deserve to be praised by Allah in the Quran, in Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 143:

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ أُمَّةً وَسَطًا لِتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ
وَيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ عَلَيْكُمْ شَهِيدًا

Which means: *“And thus we have made you a just community that you will be witnesses over the people and the Messenger will be a witness over you.”* [Surah Al-Baqarah 2:143]

Blessed Friday jemaah,

Eagerness to do good, rushing to benefit others and constantly striving to be at the forefront in doing good deeds that can benefit not just Muslims but the entire universe, are all acts that are strongly encouraged in Islam. Rasulullah s.a.w said:

لَنْ يَشْبَعَ الْمُؤْمِنُ مِنْ خَيْرٍ يَسْمَعُهُ حَتَّىٰ يَكُونَ مُنْتَهَاهُ الْجَنَّةَ

Which means: *“A believer (mukmin) will not be satisfied with his good deeds until he dies and is placed in heaven”.* [Hadith reported by Imam At-Tirmidzi]

There are many opportunities in doing good. Hence, Imam al-Nawawi in his book, *Riyādh al-Sālihīn*, dedicated a chapter entitled *“The Chapter Explaining the Different Paths of Goodness”*. In this chapter, he collated various hadiths that encourage Muslims to do good whether to humankind, animals, environment and so on.

In line with that, Muslims today must be confident of the universal principles and values found in the Quran and Hadith. In fact, they should be leading efforts in doing good deeds wherever they go, especially when interacting with others.

Beloved jemaah,

For three consecutive weeks, the Friday sermons have been discussing about relationships with others, Muslims and non-Muslims.

When interacting with others, let us emulate the character of Rasulullah s.a.w who was merciful and brought blessings to the universe. Let us be a Muslim community that is exemplary in our deeds and actions. Let us ensure that our speech and actions are gracious and respectful, and let us not allow for bad manners and demeanour to hide the beauty of the true teachings of Islam.

As Ramadan approaches, we are reminded that this is the time when the community is more active in organising and taking part in various welfare activities. Let us make it a personal goal to radiate blessings and mercy to every single person who interacts with us, no matter their religion or race. For example, it is our tradition to share our dishes with our neighbours – both Muslims and non-Muslims – and this should be a practice that we continue to uphold. Hopefully it will be a catalyst for lasting peace, understanding and mutual respect. Jemaah, the world is currently witnessing too many sufferings and pain as a result of conflicts and wars. So let us pray to Allah to make us agents of peace. Seek from Allah that he places the key to peace in our hands, and in our future generations.

Blessed Friday jemaah,

Let us come together and reflect upon ourselves in these last few days of Sya'ban. We need to self-reflect or do *muhasabah*, in order to remain as a Muslim ummah that loves goodness, peace and prosperity for all. We need to do *muhasabah* to remain as a community that radiates blessings wherever we are. Let us all raise our hands as we seek from Allah s.w.t., and may He grant us our doa.

Allahumma Ya Rahmān, ya Rahīm

We are here in the last days of Sya'ban seeking and hoping for Your Mercy and Your Pleasure. We are nothing without Your help and assistance.

Ya Allah,

Show us with Your love, help us with Your inayah, strengthen the bonds between us because of our love for You oh Allah, erase our mistakes and sins with Your forgiveness, accept our deeds and acts of worship and reward us abundantly.

Allahumma Ya Khabīr, Ya 'Alīm

We ask from You to make this Ramadan one that can cleanse our hearts and souls, increase our love for humanity, increase our sense of gratitude, increase the love we have for one another, and a Ramadan that can strengthen our beliefs and

one that will bring mercy to all in this universe. Amin Ya Rabbal
Alamin.

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ 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.