

Selected Friday Sermons Conducted by Sh. Muhammad Jumu'an:

SPEECH NO.1

TOPIC: THE OBLIGATION OF THANKING ALLAH FOR HIS BOUNTIES

INTRODUCTION:

All praise is due to Allah –The Almighty, The All Gracious. We praise Him, we seek His Guidance and ask for His Forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of our own souls and bad deeds. Whoever Allah guides, none can lead him astray and whoever Allah leaves astray, no one can guide him to the straight path besides Allah. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone without any associates and I bear witness that Muhammad is the slave and messenger of Allah. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him and all his family members and companions. Amen.

O you who have believed! Fear Allah as he should be feared and do not die except as Muslims (in the state of full submission to Him).

O mankind! Fear your Lord who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear Allah through whom you ask one another, and the wombs. Indeed, Allah is ever, over you, an Observer.

O you who believe! Fear Allah and speak in a straight forward manner. He will amend your deeds and forgive you your sins. And whoever obeys Allah and His messenger has indeed attained the greatest success.

Part 1:

Dear Muslims!

Knowing Allah's names, attributes and actions leads a Muslim person to love Allah and to revere Him and worship Him sincerely. Among His beautiful names is "The Giver" and among His beautiful attributes is "Generosity". And from His generosity, the countless blessings Allah has bestowed upon His slaves some of which they have requested from their Lord and Creator while other blessings Allah has bestowed upon them without even them asking for it. Allah –The Almighty says in the Holy Qurán:

“And if you count the blessings of Allah, you will never be able to do so.”

O servants of Allah! Remembering the blessings of Allah will lead to thanking Allah and remembering Him which is one of the reasons of attaining success in this life and the hereafter. Allah The Almighty says in the Qurán:

“So remember the bounties of Allah upon you so that you may be successful”.

“And remember when you were few in the land and oppressed and were afraid that other people will snatch you away and Allah gave you a safe sanctuary and supported you with His victory and provided you with good sustenance.”

The companions of the Prophet Muhammad (May Allah be pleased with them all) used to always remember the favours and bounties of Allah upon them especially His favour of guiding them to Islam which is indeed the greatest favour of Allah upon His creatures that He guided them to Islam. Allah the All-Glorious says in the Holy Qurán:

“This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favour upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion.”

O slaves of Allah! Allah’s bounties and favours on His slaves is really beyond measure or counting. Also His blessings and favours increase with gratitude and thankfulness and acknowledging that it is solely from Allah alone. Allah says in the Holy Qur’an: “And every blessing or favour that you have is from Allah”.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) used to supplicate every day in the mornings and evenings: “O my Lord! whatever blessing that I have received this day from you or from one of your servants, it is indeed from you alone without any associate. To you is due all praise and thanks.

One of the ways of thanking Allah for His bounties and favours is thanking Him and praising Him with your tongue. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said; “Allah is pleased with His slave if he eats his food and then thanks Allah for the food and drinks his drink and then thanks Allah for the drink”.

Also in the Holy Qurán, Allah the Almighty says: “But as for the favour of your Lord, report it.” (Chapter 93 verse 11).

Dear Muslims! The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) advised us that we should look at those who are less blessed than us in terms of health, wealth, or position or social status and avoid looking at those whom Allah in His infinite wisdom has favoured above us in these blessings so that we appreciate the blessings of Allah and don't despise them or show ingratitude.

O slaves of Allah! Obedience to Allah is one of the ways of safeguarding the blessings of Allah from being taken away from us. Among the reasons for the continuation of the favours and blessings of Allah upon an individual is praying to Allah regularly to preserve and continue His blessings upon us. Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) used to regularly supplicate:

“O Allah! I seek refuge in you from the removal of your favours and the transformation of your wellness into hardship and the suddenness of your punishment and all forms of your anger.”

O Slaves of Allah! The sins that we commit repel the blessings which are descending from Allah to us and remove the blessings that we are currently enjoying depending on the extent of our sins. However, if you notice that the favours of Allah continue to descend upon you while you are still continuing in committing sins, then be careful as this could be a form of enticement that will eventually result in a sudden punishment in this world and eternal damnation in Hell-fire in the hereafter. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: “If you see Allah sending down His bounties upon a slave while he continues to commit sins, then know that this is enticement for that person to continue in committing sins and then die in a state of disobedience to Allah and so enter the hell-fire.”

Imam Hassan Al-Basri said: “Allah continues to bestow His favours upon his slave for as long as He wills. If the slave doesn't show gratitude or thank Allah for it then He turns the favour into punishment.”

O Muslims! Allah is The Most Generous Giver; His hands are filled with bounties in the day and in the night and He is the Most Knowing, The Wisest. He gives and distributes His bounties to His slaves according to what is most suitable and appropriate for that slave. He is the Most Merciful, Most Aware and Most Knowing of the needs of His slaves. Sometimes a slave of Allah may be prevented from attaining a favour of Allah which he wants or he may be granted a blessing in

a form of a catastrophe or disaster that befalls him so that Allah may raise his rank and erase his sins. So be among the believing and grateful servants of Allah so that you may attain the eternal success and enter the paradise.

Part 2:

All praise is due to Allah for His generosity and All thanks is due to Allah for His guidance and countless blessings. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him and all his family members and all his companions.

O Muslims! The human hearts are inclined to love whoever shows them kindness and generosity. No one is more generous than Allah –The Almighty and His creatures are all surrounded and enjoy His countless blessings and bounties. Whoever uses these bounties of Allah to commit sins or acts of disobedience to Allah, has shown ingratitude to Allah’s favours. Unfortunately, despite the numerous blessings and favours which constantly descend upon us, very few people thank Allah for them. This is clearly mentioned in the Holy Qurán:

“And very few of my servants are grateful.”

The successful person my dear Muslim brothers is the one who remembers Allah’s favours and bounties whether small or big and thanks and praises Allah for it and he is among the righteous servants of Allah.

Allah –The Most Glorious has commanded you to send salutations of peace and blessings upon His prophet as mentioned in the Holy Qurán:

“Allah and His Angels send salutations of peace on the prophet. O you who believe send salutations of peace and blessings on the prophet”

O Allah! Exalt the mention of Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as you exalted the mention of Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim. You are the Praised and Most Glorious. O Allah! Bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad as you have blessed Ibrahim and the family of Ibrahim. You are Praised and Most Glorious.