

الخطبة الأولى

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْحَكَمِ الْعَدْلِ، صَاحِبِ الْجُودِ وَالْفَضْلِ، أَحْمَدُهُ سُبْحَانَهُ بِمَا هُوَ لَهُ أَهْلٌ مِنَ الْحَمْدِ وَأُثْبِي عَلَيْهِ، وَأُؤْمِنُ بِهِ وَأَتَوَكَّلُ عَلَيْهِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْعَلِيمُ الْخَلَّاقُ ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولَهُ، أَمَرَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ بِالسَّمَاحَةِ وَسَعَةِ الصَّدْرِ، وَوَعَدَهُمْ بِذَلِكَ الرِّفْعَةِ وَعُلُوِّ الْقَدْرِ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَالتَّابِعِينَ لَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ: فَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ ، فَالْتَقُوا أَسَاسَ الْفَلَاحِ وَمِفْتَاحَ النَّجَاحِ، فَمَا بُنِيَ تَقَدُّمٌ مِنْ غَيْرِ نَقَى إِلَّا انْعَدَمَ، وَمَا شِيدَ بُنْيَانٌ مِنْ دُونِهِ إِلَّا انْهَدَمَ (وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ) .
عَنْ النُّعْمَانَ بْنِ بَشِيرٍ رضي الله عنه قَالَ : قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ : « مَثَلُ الْقَائِمِ عَلَى حُدُودِ اللَّهِ وَالْوَاقِعِ فِيهَا، كَمَثَلِ قَوْمٍ اسْتَهَمُوا عَلَى سَفِينَةٍ، فَأَصَابَ بَعْضُهُمْ أَعْلَاهَا وَبَعْضُهُمْ أَسْفَلَهَا، فَكَانَ الَّذِينَ فِي أَسْفَلِهَا إِذَا اسْتَقَوْا مِنَ الْمَاءِ مَرُّوا عَلَى مَنْ فَوْقَهُمْ، فَقَالُوا: لَوْ أَنَا خَرَفْنَا فِي نَصِيبِنَا خَرَفًا وَلَمْ نُؤَدِّ مِنْ فَوْقِنَا، فَإِنْ يَتْرُكُوهُمْ وَمَا أَرَادُوا هَلَكُوا جَمِيعًا، وَإِنْ أَخَذُوا عَلَى أَيْدِيهِمْ نَجَوْا، وَنَجَّوْا جَمِيعًا » خ.

One of the great companions of the Prophet Muhammad, Nu'man ibn Basheer narrates to us a beautiful hadith from the Messenger of Allah about the parable of enjoining good in a society and the resemblance of those on a boat together:

“The parable of those who respect and enjoin, to be obedient to the limits and boundries of Allah (religion of Islam) and those who violate them is like that of people who board a ship after casting ballots. Some of them residing in its upper deck and others in its lower deck. When those in the lower deck want water, they have to go to the top of the boat to get some of the water from the sea. So they thought that they don't want to keep bothering the one's on the upper deck so they said: If we tear a hole in the bottom of the ship, we will not keep bothering those above us. If those in the upper deck let them do what they want, they will all be destroyed together. If those in the upper deck prevent them from putting a hole in the boat, then they will all be saved together.”

Brothers and sisters in Islam this hadith contains a great parable that shows us how passengers on a ship should behave when they are together out in the ocean...things they should do and shouldn't do... But more practically it shows us how we as Muslims should act within our community, our masjid, and our neighborhood.

Let's reflect together over this hadith:

Anyone who sails on a boat, their main goal is to arrive safely to their final destination.

Similarly the Muslim wants to travel through life being an obedient servant to Allah, aiding others on his path to reach his final destination of the paradise.

Brothers and sisters, All individuals of a community want to live a happy, peaceful, safe and secure lifestyle wherever they may be residing.

One of the main steps to achieve this is that each individual needs to realize that they are part of a whole, and that what they do affects other parts of that whole.

Just how the crew, passengers and captain are all sailing on one boat with the goal of reaching their final destination, they do everything in their power to make the boat sail safely and keep away all harms that may hinder it from reaching its destination.

Similarly the members of a Muslim community, neighborhood and masjid are in one boat. They need to work together to succeed and reach their goal of establishing Allah's religion on earth. If all of the passengers on the boat reach their destination, then the cruise was a success, but if there is a malfunction caused by someone or a hole in the boat, then the boat would sink and all the passengers would die. For the boat to sail safely and reach its destination, all members of the crew need to do their jobs, the captain, the navigator, the maintenance men, the cooks, the janitors, the engineers, the weather man, and even the passengers need to follow the captain's instructions and not disobey them so as to not make the crew's job more difficult or cause anyone on the boat harm. The passengers are one of the most important factors and groups in keeping the boat afloat and not sinking. Similarly in a Muslim community, in order for it to succeed, prosper, grow and develop all members of the community need to do their jobs. The Imam, the Mu'athin, the teachers, the cooks, the janitors, the administrative workers, and most importantly the congregants... All need to work together to further the goals of spreading Islam and establishing a place of worship and proper Islamic Education for our communities. Similarly the congregants, you, me, your children, your families are one of the most important factors in keeping this masjid and community thriving and growing.

On a boat, the captain checks on his crew and makes sure everyone is doing their jobs and there are not issues. The head engineer checks on the motor and gears and makes sure the boat is sailing smoothly. The cook makes sure the food is prepared and delicious. Similarly in a masjid, the Imam checks on the admin and teachers and makes sure they are performing exceptionally and focused on their goals. The admin checks on the congregants and makes sure that the masjid is providing adequate service and activities. If everyone does their job, everything runs smoothly and will be successful.

However, just like in the boat, all it takes is one person to put a hole in the boat to make the boat sink and kill everyone in it. Same thing in a Muslim community, it only takes one person to destroy a community by creating mischief, spreading lies and rumors, and doing things that are disobedient to Allah and misrepresenting the community.

Second Khutbah

This hadith we are discussing today teaches us the importance of individual responsibility and collective responsibility as well.

When Muslims understand this, then we will see the manifestation of what the prophet Muhammad explained in another hadith which gives us a great parable between the Muslim ummah and the body:

وَيَقُولُ ﷺ: «مَثَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي تَوَادِهِمْ وَتَرَاحِمِهِمْ وَتَعَاطُفِهِمْ مَثَلُ الْجَسَدِ، إِذَا اشْتَكَى مِنْهُ عُضْوٌ تَدَاعَى لَهُ سَائِرُ الْجَسَدِ بِالسَّهْرِ وَالْحُمَى» متفق عليه.

“The Muslims in their mutual love, mercy, and kindness are as if they are one body; if one organ suffers illness, then the rest of the body suffers and experiences restlessness and fever.”

We find many lessons within the hadith about the passengers on a ship. From these lessons is:

-Those on the lower level thought that by putting a hole in the bottom of the boat that they were relieving those on the upper deck from them bothering them, but didn't realize that putting a hole in the boat is a greater harm than what they perceived. This shows us the importance of shura and consultation and asking others and especially the people

of knowledge when you don't know where the benefits or harms are of a scenario or situation.

-Muslims have a free will and freedom of choice as to what to do, as long as it is within the boundaries of the religion of Islam and their individual actions or statements do not bring about harm to the community. The Prophet Muhammad denounced the idea of those in the lower deck of the boat who wanted to put a hole in it to make accessing water easier, which would lead to harming and killing themselves as well as harming and killing the others on the upper deck.

The Prophet Muhammad sternly warned from doing anything that can harm others when he said:

« مَنْ ضَارَّ أَضَرَ اللَّهُ بِهِ، وَمَنْ شَاقَّ شَقَّ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ » الترمذي وغيره.

"Whoever harms others, Allah (SWT) will harm him; and whoever causes hardship to others Allah will cause hardship to him."

-Whoever harms others with their own wealth, their body, their honor, their health, or whoever causes harm to other people's wealth, body, honor or health; then Allah will recompense them equally in the same way that they harmed others.

Don't harm others by selling drugs, alcohol, tobacco, marijuana; because the harm that you caused others will eventually come back to you. You're harming the reputation of people who want to be real Muslims, you're confusing non-Muslims making them think that Muslims believe and think that harmful intoxicants, tobacco, alcohol and drugs are acceptable and ok to use and sell. Fear Allah....

Don't harm others by stealing their intellectual property, their ideas, their business plans and taking advantage of them and using them to your own benefit and taking advantage of other people's lack of knowledge. Rather guide them to have what you have, take them by the hand the lead them to reach the level you have reached. Don't be afraid of them being your competition, make dua for them that Allah makes them successful, more successful than you. Love for your brother what you love for yourself.

-We also learn from the hadith today that preventing harm and evil should be done before it occurs. Closing the doors that can lead to fitan, mischief, wrongdoing and crimes against Allah and against his religion or against the rights of other people. By increasing awareness of evil and harm, educating those who may not perceive that harm, educating the youth and those who may be unaware of harms or evil in their societies.

The Prophet Muhammad said:

« إِنَّ مِنَ النَّاسِ مَفَاتِيحَ لِلْخَيْرِ مَعَالِيْقَ لِلشَّرِّ، وَإِنَّ مِنَ النَّاسِ مَفَاتِيحَ لِلشَّرِّ، مَعَالِيْقَ لِلْخَيْرِ، فَطُوبَى لِمَنْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ مَفَاتِيحَ الْخَيْرِ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ، وَوَيْلٌ لِمَنْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ مَفَاتِيحَ الشَّرِّ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ » ابن ماجة.

The Messenger of Allah said: “There are some people who are like keys to the doors of evil, and locks to doors of good. Glad tidings to those in whose hands Allah places they keys to the doors of good, and woe to those in whose hands Allah places the keys to the doors of evil.” (Ibn Majah #195, Silsilah Saheehah #1332)

-We also learn and can understand that the one who commits a sin openly harms the whole community and the one who does it privately only harms himself. He only harms himself if done in private and Allah will hold him accountable. It is not permissible for a Muslim to spy on him. However if the sin is committed openly, what should we as Muslims do? Just let do what he wants to do? If open sinning is occurring by the hands of Muslims it harms to one who is doing it as well as the one who is not doing it and is part of the same community. It will harm them in this world and the next. Allah’s punishment would fall on all members of the community not just the individual, as the great companion and wife of the Prophet Muhammad Zaynab bint Jahsh asked the Messenger of Allah:

فَقُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَنَهْلِكُ وَفِينَا الصَّالِحُونَ قَالَ " نَعَمْ، إِذَا كَثُرَ الْخَبْثُ " .

“O Messenger of Allah, will we be destroyed while there are righteous people amongst us? He said: ‘Yes if evil and corruption increases.’”

If we want to survive and have a thriving Muslim community, then the sunnah of denouncing evil and enjoining good amongst each other must never cease. Allah tells us:

وَلَوْلَا دَفْعُ اللَّهِ النَّاسَ بَعْضَهُمْ بِبَعْضٍ لَفَسَدَتِ الْأَرْضُ

“If it wasn’t for Allah repelling a group of people with strength/knowledge/might of another group of people, corruption would have dominated the earth.” (Al Baqarah:251)

Those of us who are openly sinning and publicizing our sins are adding to the problems of our societies instead of cleaning them up. If we were to abandon open sinning and disobedience of Allah, we would have more sustenance, cleaner wealth, more barakah in our lives and be a lot more successful. As Allah tells us:

وَلَوْ أَنَّ أَهْلَ الْفُرَيْ عَامَنُوا وَاتَّقَوْا لَفَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِم بَرَكَاتٍ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَكِن كَذَّبُوا فَأَخَذْنَاهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ

“Had the people of those societies been faithful and mindful of Allah, We would have overwhelmed them with blessings from heaven and earth. But they disbelieved, so We seized them for what they used to commit.” (7:96)

So let those who are committing sins openly be reminded that they are not only harming themselves, but they are also harming our Muslim community and the greater community as well. We have to work together to clean up our communities, be good examples to others, and not put a hole in our boat causing all of us to sink. May Allah aid us.

From the blessings that Allah has bestowed upon us here in Hagerstown is the opportunity to have an Islamic center here in the center of town. The opportunity to be a source of guidance for our greater community. The opportunities to do good here are endless: coming to pray five times a day, inviting people to Islam, inviting people to jumah and then lunch, inviting people to come and get food from the food pantry, inviting people to have a discussion about anything in life that is troubling them. The masjid is a place of rest, relaxation, meditation and communicating with Allah and with other believers. A sign that Allah loves you and wants good for you is when you do good things to develop and initiate positive activities and programs in your local mosque and Muslim community. While at the same time doing everything in your power to protect the mosque and Muslim community and preserve it, and keeping away harms and all types of evil.

May Allah enable us to be grateful for these blessings and enable us to work for Islam and furthering Allah’s cause.