

All praises are due to Allah and may peace and blessings be sent upon the Prophet Muhammad, his companions, his family and all of those who follow them until the day of resurrection.

Brothers and sisters in Islam, did you know that one of the unique features and distinguishing traits of our deen of Al Islam and that others faiths cannot compete with is that it unifies people from different races, ethnicities, backgrounds, lifestyles, and nationalities upon the truth. You don't need to be from a certain ethnicity or race to be Muslim. One of the great things that we as Muslims are taught is how Islam encourages its followers to aid each other upon righteousness and work together to do good, while at the same time preventing its followers from engaging in sin and evil acts. Allah tells us in the Quran

﴿ وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ ﴾ [المائدة: 2]

Working together upon righteousness and enjoining each other with good deeds is from the traits and characteristics of true believers, and it must be joined with denouncing the bad deeds as well, the two go hand in hand, enjoining with good while denouncing evil, you cannot have one without the other:

﴿ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ يَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَيُطِيعُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ أُولَئِكَ سَيَرْحَمُهُمُ اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ ﴾ [التوبة: 71].

The believers are guardians over each other, they enjoin each other with good and prohibit each other from evil, they establish the prayers, pay zakat and are obedient to Allah and his messenger. Those individuals will attain the mercy of Allah, who is the Al Mighty and All wise.

The Prophet Muhammad explained how the believers should be in a beautiful parable when he said:

مَثَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي تَوَادِّهِمْ وَتَرَاحُمِهِمْ وَتَعَاطُفِهِمْ مَثَلُ الْجَسَدِ إِذَا اشْتَكَى مِنْهُ عُضْوٌ تَدَاعَى لَهُ " سَائِرُ الْجَسَدِ بِالسَّهْرِ وَالْحُمَى " .

The similitude of the believers in regard to their mutual love, affection, and kindness is that of one body; when any limb experiences pain, the whole body aches, because of sleeplessness and fever.

Many of us are familiar with these Quranic verses and these prophetic ahadith, and many of us strive hard to enjoin one another to do good in the deen, increase in our acts of worship, do more things that get us closer to Allah. While many of us can do more, and many of us are deficient, and many of us have forgotten about the importance of joining the ordering of good with the denouncing of evil. May Allah aid us.

However, today I'd like to take some time and reflect a little more deeply into these verses and these ahadith. When Allah created us, and we submitted to Him as Muslims, didn't He promise us that He will give us the good of this world and the next? When we supplicate don't we ask Allah for the good of this world and the next? ربنا آتنا في الدنيا حسنة و في الآخرة حسنة و قنا عذاب النار. Didn't the Muslims build some of the greatest civilizations ever known to mankind on the face of the Earth, Muslim Spain, the Ottoman Empires, Makkah and Madinah....They did so because they knew and truly understood these verses and these ahadith. They knew that working together upon the deen is the foundation, and when people work together upon the deen, working together upon the dunya becomes easy and is immediately facilitated for them. They knew that constantly making their intentions for everything they do, sincerely for Allah alone, that all of the things in this world will come to them

خَرَجَ زَيْدُ بْنُ ثَابِتٍ مِنْ عِنْدِ مَرْوَانَ بِنِصْفِ النَّهَارِ فَقُلْتُ مَا بَعَثَ إِلَيْهِ هَذِهِ السَّاعَةَ إِلَّا لَشَيْءٍ سَأَلَ عَنْهُ . فَسَأَلْتُهُ فَقَالَ سَأَلْنَا عَنْ أَشْيَاءَ سَمِعْنَاهَا مِنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - يَقُولُ " مَنْ كَانَتْ الدُّنْيَا هَمَّهُ فَرَّقَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ أَمْرَهُ وَجَعَلَ فَقْرَهُ بَيْنَ عَيْنَيْهِ وَلَمْ يَأْتِهِ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا مَا كُتِبَ لَهُ وَمَنْ كَانَتْ الْآخِرَةُ نِيَّتَهُ جَمَعَ اللَّهُ لَهُ أَمْرَهُ وَجَعَلَ غِنَاهُ فِي قَلْبِهِ وَأَتَتْهُ الدُّنْيَا وَهِيَ رَاغِمَةٌ " .

‘Abdur-Rahman bin Aban bin ‘Uthman bin ‘Affan narrated that his father said: “Zaid bin Thabit left Marwan’s house at mid afternoon at mid-day and he said: ‘He has not sent him out at this time of the day except for something he asked.’ So I asked him why was he outside during this time (heat and the sun scorching) and he said: ‘He asked me about some things we heard from the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) say: “Whoever is focused and concerned only on this world, Allah will disrupt/confuse his affairs and make him fear poverty constantly, and he will not get anything of this world except that which has been decreed for him. And Whoever focuses/concentrates on the Hereafter, Allah will settle/organize his affairs for him and make him feel content in his heart, and his provision and worldly gains will undoubtedly and inevitably come to him.” Allahu akbar!!! This is the understand we need to return to. This was the understand of the righteous predecessors, that’s why they conquered the world, the hearts and minds of all they came into contact with.

The Muslims of the past knew and understood this verse as working together in acts of worship, working together in behavior, working together with each others families, working together in educating the youth, working together in physical training, working together in business, building mosques, houses, buildings, business co-ops, and this is how the great Muslim civilizations were built.

Don’t you want that for your children living and growing up here in the USA, in Hagerstown? Don’t you want the reward of being someone who

planted a seed for an entire Muslim community, city and neighborhood here in Hagerstown. Let's work harder brothers and sisters in establishing our deen as well as establishing some significant systems, facilities, businesses and Muslim organizations here in Hagerstown. If we don't take advantage of the opportunities here, others will and then all of us will regret it.

هَلَّا نَتُّمُّ هَؤُلَاءِ تَدْعُونَ لِتُنْفِقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ فَمِنْكُمْ مَن يَبْخُلُ وَمَنْ يَبْخُلْ فَإِنَّمَا يَبْخُلُ عَنِ نَفْسِهِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ الْعَنِي وَالْفُقَرَاءُ ۗ وَإِن تَتَوَلَّوْا يَسْتَبْدِلْ قَوْمًا غَيْرَكُمْ ثُمَّ لَا يَكُونُوا أَمْثَلَكُمْ ۝ ٣٨

Here you are, being invited to donate 'a little' in the cause of Allah. Still some of you withhold. And whoever does so, it is only to their own loss.

For Allah is the Self-Sufficient, whereas you stand in need 'of Him'. If you 'still' turn away, He will replace you with another people. And they will not be like you.

Second khutbah

{هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الْأَرْضَ ذُلُولًا فَامْشُوا فِي مَنَاكِبِهَا وَكُلُوا مِن رِّزْقِهِ وَإِلَيْهِ النُّشُورُ} [الملك:15] {وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمُ اللَّيْلَ لِبَاسًا وَالنَّوْمَ سُبَاتًا وَجَعَلَ النَّهَارَ نُشُورًا} [الفرقان:47].
وقال أيضاً: {وَجَعَلْنَا اللَّيْلَ لِبَاسًا. وَجَعَلْنَا النَّهَارَ مَعَاشًا} [النبا:10-11]

عن أنس بن مالك قال: "قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم؛ «إِن قَامَتِ السَّاعَةُ؛ وَبِيَدِ أَحَدِكُمْ فَسِيلَةٌ، فَإِنِ اسْتَطَاعَ أَنْ لَا يَقُومَ حَتَّى يَغْرِسَهَا فَلْيَفْعَلْ» (رواه أحمد، وصححه الألباني)

Allah tells us in the Quran that He has made the earth as a place to travel through its lands and to seek provisions, and has made the day time as a time to work and a time to go after one's livelihood. Anas ibn Malik reported the Prophet Muhammad saying: If the Final Hour is established and one of you has a seedling of a tree in his hand, and if he can plant it before the final hour, let him hasten to do so.

Brothers and sisters in Islam, today we are talking about working together upon righteousness and piety while working together to denounce evil and sin. However, today I'd like to draw our attention to

an important aspect of working together that many of us may have forgotten about, many of us may be heedless about; it is working together to build our dunya, working together to build a Muslim society, community, city and neighborhood, Muslim schools, Muslim businesses, Muslim organizations. Working and having a job and career, working and starting a business, being an entrepreneur, buying and selling, seeking halaal provisions and livelihood.

As you all know today is Jum'ah, the best day of the week. We all responded to Allah's call in the Quran:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَدَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ۗ ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ٩

O believers! When the call to prayer is made on Friday, then proceed 'diligently' to the remembrance of Allah and leave off 'your' business.

That is best for you, if only you knew.

Allah gave us two commands: go to the jumah prayer, and to abandon something for a short time while prayer is going on. He addressed the believers and ordered them to leave something off...what was it, what were many of the Muslims known for and what were they engaging in before the time for the Jumah prayer?

Business, tijarah, buying and selling, entrepreneurship...Yes. Muslims have always been known for being the best entrepreneurs, the most honest, truthful, just and fair businessmen. It is said that all of eastern Asia accepted Islam, because of Muslim businessmen who travelled there and interacted with the people there. They accepted Islam because of the Muslim businessmen's manners, etiquettes, honesty and lack of cheating, deception and selling harm or spoiled goods.

Alhamdullilah, the deen of Al Islam is balanced, Allah didn't tell us to pray jumah and remain in the masjid, He told us in the very next verse:

فَإِذَا قُضِيَتِ الصَّلَاةُ فَانْتَشِرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَابْتَغُوا مِن فَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا لَّعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ
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“once the prayer is over, disperse throughout the land and seek the provisions and bounties of Allah, and remember Allah often so you may be successful.”

So in these two verses we have two commands two commands to remember Allah and pray and three commands to go out and seek provisions.

Muslims working together to establish businesses, projects, purchase buildings and housing, buying land is also an important aspect and understanding of our verses today.

Did you know that the best of mankind to ever set face on the earth was initially a businessman: the Prophet Muhammad? Did you know the mother of the believers Khadijah was also a businesswoman? Did you know that the four rightly guided caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali were great businessmen? They loved business and entrepreneurship so much: Umar ibn Al Khattab is narrated to have said:

ليس هناك مكان أحب أن يأتيني الموت فيه بعد الجهاد في سبيل الله؛ إلا أن أكون في سوق أبيع وأشتري من أجل عيالي"، وأخذ هذا من قول الله تعالى: {وَأَخْرُونَ يَضْرِبُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَبْتَغُونَ مِن فَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَآخْرُونَ يُقَاتِلُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ} (المزمل: 20)

“There is no better place and more beloved to me to die in than except while fighting for the sake of Allah, except to be in the market buying and selling to support my children and family.”

Whenever there was a need in the community for funding a project, whether it was building a Masjid, facilitating the troops and soldiers, forging weapons, or riding animals; it was always the businessmen and entrepreneurs who gave the biggest donations to their communities.

When Muslims become business owners, land owners, owners of buildings, owners of educational institutes, they gain economic power, political influence, educational influence, and the ability to change their communities for the better.

Brothers and sisters in Islam, as Muslims in America in Hagerstown MD, don't we think that we could do a lot better for ourselves as Muslims and all people, if we as Muslims join hands, if we as Muslims sit down and discuss business plans, educational projects, dawah projects, housing solutions? The only way we can transform Hagerstown-the place that we have chosen as home-is thru working together with our wealth, our education, our experience and our efforts collectively. We always talk and complain about the situation here: lgbtq in schools, drugs, violence, gangs, lack of jobs, cost of living: lets put our money where our mouths are. Lets stop talking and start building something significant for Muslims as leaders in our communities, so as to guide the non-Muslims about how to live a righteous prosperous life, deen and dunya.

How did the previous Muslim societies and empires succeed and establish themselves and assist each other in business? The early companions knew and understood how to help and assist one another in establishing businesses:

عن أنس رضي الله عنه قال قدم عبد الرحمن بن عوف المدينة فأخى النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم بينه وبين سعد بن الربيع الأنصاري فعرض عليه أن يناصفه أهله وماله فقال عبد الرحمن بارك الله لك في أهلك ومالك دلني على السوق فربح شيئاً من أقط وسمن فرآه النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم بعد أيام وعليه وضر من صفرة فقال النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم مهيم يا عبد الرحمن قال يا رسول الله تزوجت امرأة من الأنصار قال فما سقت فيها فقال وزن نواة من ذهب فقال النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم أولم ولو بشاة

When `Abdur-Rahman bin `Auf came to Medina and the Prophet (ﷺ) established the bond of brotherhood between him and Sa`d bin Ar-

Rabi-al-Ansari, Saud suggested that `Abdur-Rahman should accept half of his property and family. `Abdur Rahman said, "May Allah bless you in your family and property; guide me to the market." So `Abdur-Rahman (while doing business in the market) made some profit of some condensed dry yoghurt and butter. After a few days the Prophet (ﷺ) saw him wearing clothes stained with yellow perfume. The Prophet (ﷺ) asked, "What is this, O `Abdur-Rahman?" He said, "O Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)! I have married an Ansar' woman." The Prophet (ﷺ) asked, "What have you given her as Mahr?" He (i.e. `Abdur-Rahman) said, "A piece of gold, about the weight of a date stone." Then the Prophet said, Give a banquet, even though of a sheep."

Imagine Abdurahman ibn Auf, migrated from Makkah to Madinah, had little or no money with him, left his family behind him, his house, his belongings to be with the Prophet Muhammad....He was in great need of money and companionship....However, he knew the barakah and blessings that Allah puts in starting a business, he knew that Allah will provide for him, he knew and put his complete trust in Allah to make his business and buying and selling prosperous...so much so that he profited greatly and on top of that, became married...

Look at the sacrifice of Sa'd ibn Rabi', he offered his Muslim brother one of his two wives, and even half of his wealth. This is why their generation was so successful. Our businessmen, professionals whether blue collar or white collar workers, what are we offering our brothers and sisters here in Hagerstown who may be struggling financially? How much of our wealth, time, efforts, experience are we willing to share with our Muslim brothers and sisters? The answer is clear, and the situation we find ourselves as Muslim in, in comparison to how the previous Muslim generations lived, is the result of what we are talking about today: Sacrifice, seeing the big picture, living with less wealth now temporarily, to aid my brother or sister to increasing his/her

wealth and livelihood to be equal to the wealth, property, money that I have. This is how great Islamic communities were built. This is how Makkah and Madinah were conquered, this is how Muslim Spain became the 'Zahratu Dunya' greatest empire ever established on earth for 800 years, because Muslims worked together, sharing their wealth, sharing their education, sharing their experience, sharing everything they had, to make their communities better places for all people, not only the Muslims, but non Muslims as well. And this is the only way righteous societies can be built. Everyone working together to uplift each other in deen as well as dunya. When righteous believers work together in deen as well as dunya, then and only then will they re-build the great empires, societies and communities that they were once known for. Talk to your brothers and sisters in your community, talk about how to pool resources together to start and build Islamic schools, how to start Muslim owned and run businesses, how to pool wealth to purchase properties, land, housing for new Muslims moving to the community. Current Muslim businesses collaborating upon starting new projects and businesses. Stay at home moms and working moms collaborating and working together to learn different skills together. Businessmen and entrepreneurs sitting down with blue collar workers to open each others minds and discussing new ideas and projects needed in the Muslim community. let go of your ego, don't be greedy with what Allah has given you, share it with your brothers and sisters, before it's too late. Lets start today, before our time comes to return back to Allah.

وَلَوْ أَنَّ أَهْلَ الْقُرَىٰ ءَامَنُوا وَأَنْفَقُوا لَفَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِم بَرَكَاتٍ مِّنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَٰكِن 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.

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