

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH MOST GRACIOUS, MOST MERCIFUL

Salaat-ul-Jumu'a: A Brief Survey

"O you who believe, when the call for Salaat is made on Friday, then hasten onto the remembrance of Allah, and leave aside all commercial activity. That is better for you, if only you knew." (Quran: 62:9)

Salaat ul-Jumu'a is the weekly congregational Salaat that takes the place of Salaat-ad-Dhuhr every Friday. It is a two Rak'aat Salaat with audible recitation preceded by a Khutba (Sermon) delivered by the Imam in two parts (he sits in between them). The Khutba must be in Arabic although some scholars have agreed that it may be translated into other languages for the benefit of non-Arabic speaking worshippers. That is more so since the Khutba in addition to its basic constituents: giving thanks and praise to Allah, invoking blessings on the Messenger and his kindred as well as exhorting Believers as to being conscious of Allah (At-Taqwa). The Khatib (Imam delivering the Khutba) in addition enlightens and reminds worshippers of their duty to Allah, family, etc. And also takes a brief look at some of the most important events of the time (at least in the week since the previous Friday) and provides the Islamic perspectives on these events and issues with citations from the Quran and Hadith as well as the opinions of the learned.

According to the Maliki School of Jurisprudence however, there must be at least 12 adult males present in the Masjid in addition to the Imam from the beginning of the Khutba to the end of the Salaat in order for the Salaat-ul-Jumu'a to be valid. Whoever misses Salaat-ul-Jumu'a must do Salaat-ad-Dhuhr instead. Missing three consecutive Jumu'a Salaats however, without a genuine excuse is tantamount to hypocrisy. Salaat-ul-Jumu'a is not obligatory on women although they are free to attend should they wish to do so.

Washing and Purifying oneself

Before going to the Salaat ul-Jumu'a it is highly recommended to have ghusl (ritual bath). This ghusl is Sunnah. Narrated Salman Al-Farsi: Allah's Messenger (SallAllahu `Alaihi Wa Sallam) said,

"Anyone who takes a bath on Friday and cleans himself as much as he can and puts oil (on his hair) or scents himself; and then proceeds for the prayer and does not force his way between two persons (assembled in the mosque for The Friday Prayer), and prays as much as is written for him and remains quiet when the Imam delivers the Khutba, all his sins in between the present and the last Friday will be forgiven." (Sahih Al-Bukhari)

The ghusl can be performed starting from the time of the Fajr Salaat. Also, if a person performs ghusl and then later invalidates his ablution, he need not repeat the ghusl. Making wudhu (ablution) would suffice. The ghusl for Jumu'a is the same as the ghusl for janaba with the only differences that in the ghusl for Jumu'a one does not delay washing the feet to the last and every limb for wudhu is washed three times as normal whereas in janaba washing these limbs only once is enough. However, one ghusl would suffice for both.

Going early to the Masjid

There is a great reward in going early to **Salaat ul-Jumu'a**, beginning after sunrise. By going early for **Salaat ul-Jumu'a**, one gets the reward of waiting for the **Salaat**, making **dhikr** (remembering Allah) and **Nafil Salaat** during that time. Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Messenger (SallAllaahu `Alayhi Wa Sallam) said, "Any person who takes a bath on Friday like the bath of Janaba and then goes for the prayer (in the first hour i.e. early), it is as if he had sacrificed a camel (in Allah's cause); and whoever goes in the second hour it is as if he had sacrificed a cow; and whoever goes in the third hour, then it is as if he had sacrificed a horned ram; and if one goes in the fourth hour, then it is as if he had sacrificed a hen; and whoever goes in the fifth hour then it is as if he had offered an egg. When the Imam comes out (i.e. starts delivering the Khutba), the angels present themselves to listen to the Khutba." (Sahih Al-Bukhari)

Dressing well for Salaat-ul-Jumu'a

Allah is indeed beautiful and He loves beauty. Every Muslim should therefore, always do their best to appear smart and presentable. **Salaat-ul-Jumu'a**, in addition, is a special occasion when all worshippers should look their best, with the best of their clothing and wear sweet scents and fragrances.

The Prophet (SallAllaahu `Alaihi Wa Sallam) said,

"If one has the means, he should buy two pieces of clothing, other than his work clothes or (everyday clothing), to wear on Friday." (Abu Dawud)

Performing Tahiyat al-Masjid

If a person comes late to the **Jumu'a Salaat** while the Imam is delivering the Khutbah, would it be permissible for him to offer the two **rak'aat** of **Tahiyat-ul-Masjid** (Sunnah of greeting the Masjid) or should he simply sit down? The strongest opinion is to perform the **Tahiyat-ul-Masjid** based on the following Ahadith of the Prophet (SallAllaahu `Alaihi Wa Sallam):

"Jaabir reported that Sulaik Ghatafaani came on Friday (for Salaat) while the Messenger of Allah (Sallallaahu `alaihi wa sallam) was sitting on the pulpit. Sulaik also sat down without observing Salaat." The Messenger of Allah (SallAllaahu `Alaihi Wa Sallam) said: 'Have you observed two Rak'aat?' He said: 'No'. He (the Holy Prophet) said: 'Arise and observe them'."
(Sahih Muslim: Book 004, No.1902)

Narrated Jabir:

A man entered the Mosque while the Prophet was delivering the Khutba. The Prophet said to him, "Have you prayed?" The man replied in the negative. The Prophet said, "Pray two Rak'aat." (Sahih Al-Bukhari)

However, **Tahiyat-ul-Masjid** is not required of the Imam delivering the **Khutbah**.

Other Etiquette of Salaat-ul-Jumu'a:

- ❖ Walking to the Masjid whenever feasible as there is a reward for every step taken to the Masjid.
- ❖ Avoiding stepping over people to get to a particular spot in the Masjid.

- ❖ Avoiding dividing two people who are sitting together.
 - ❖ Not making someone stand and taking his place.
 - ❖ Not clasping one's hands and intertwining one's fingers while waiting for the prayer.
 - ❖ Sitting in the front rows and close to the Imam whenever possible.
 - ❖ Remaining quiet while the Imam is delivering the **Khutbah**. This actually includes listening to the Imam and not busying oneself with anything else while the Imam is speaking.
- Narrated Abu Huraira that the Messenger of Allah, (SallAllaahu `Alaihi wa Sallam) said:

"When the Imam is delivering the Khutba, and you (do as little as) ask your companion to keep quiet and listen, then no doubt you have done an evil act." (Sahih Al-Bukhari)

- ❖ Going to the Masjid in a state of calmness and not being hurried.
- ❖ Reciting **Surat-ul-Kahf** (*Surah 18*) as an authentic Hadith states:

"For whoever recites surah al-Kahf on Friday, it will be a light for him from that Friday to the next."
(Al-Bayahaqi and Al-Hakim)
The surah could be read any time of the day or the night before.

Indeed, **Salaat-ul-Jumu'a** is one of the most important acts of worship in Islam. The Prophet (SallAllaahu `Alaihi Wa Sallam) has described the wonderful blessings and benefits that Allah has vouchsafed upon Muslims through this magnificent act as well as the greatness of the day itself. Knowing how important this **Salaat** is in Allah's sight, Muslims must do their best to perform it in the best way possible. They should strive and sacrifice for the sake of this **Salaat**.

Yawmal Jumu'a (Friday) is indeed the greatest day of the week. We are told in Prophetic Tradition that it was the day Adam was created, the day he was made to enter **Jannah**; it was the day he descended to the earth and it was the day he died. **Yawmal Qiyaama** (The Day of Judgement) will moreover, be on a Friday.

Narrated Abu Huraira:

"I heard Allah's Messenger (SallAllaahu `Alayhi Wa Sallam) saying, "We (Muslims) are the last (to come) but (will be) the foremost on the Day of Resurrection though the former nations were given the Holy Scriptures before us. And this was their day (Friday) the celebration of which was made compulsory for them but they differed about it. So Allah gave us the guidance for it (Friday) and all the other people are behind us in this respect: the Jews' (holy day is) tomorrow (i.e. Saturday) and the Christians' (is) the day after tomorrow (i.e. Sunday)." (Sahih Al-Bukhari)

Also narrated Abu Huraira:

"Allah's Messenger (SallAllaahu `Alayhi Wa Sallam) talked about Friday and said, "There is an hour (opportune time) on Friday and if a Muslim gets it while praying and asks something from Allah, then Allah will definitely meet his request." And he (the Prophet) pointed out the shortness of that time with his hands." (Sahih Al-Bukhari)