

The Friday Congregational Prayer

In the Name of Allah Most Gracious Most Merciful

...and Obey Allaah and His Messenger, if you are believers. ...and Obey Allaah and the Messenger, so that you may be shown mercy.

O you who believe! When the call is proclaimed for prayer on the day of Jumu'ah, then hasten to the remembrance of Allaah, and leave off all trade: that is better for you, if only you knew. And when the Prayer has been offered, then you may disperse through the land, and seek of Allaah's bounty; but remember Allaah often, that you may prosper. But when they see a bargain or amusement, they disperse headlong to it, and leave you (O Muhammad) standing! Say: What Allaah has is better than any amusement or bargain, and Allaah is the best of providers. (Al-Qur'aan, surah al-Jumu'ah, 62:9-11)

Ghusl (washing the whole body), cleaning the teeth, applying perfume & hair oil, coming to the Prayer as early as possible, & remaining silent while the Imaam gives the khutbah (sermon)

'Abdullaah bin 'Umar narrated that the Messenger of Allaah (may Allaah bless him & grant him peace) said,

"Any one of you attending the Friday Prayer should take ghusl. " (BS) Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri narrated that the Messenger of Allaah (may Allaah bless him & grant him peace) said, "The ghusl on Friday is incumbent on every male adult, and also the cleaning of his teeth, and the use of perfume if it is available. " (BS)

Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Messenger of Allaah (may Allaah bless him & grant him peace) said,

"Had I not found it difficult for my followers, I would have ordered them to use Siwaak (the tooth-stick) with every prayer. " (BS)

Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Messenger of Allaah (may Allaah bless him & grant him peace) said,

"Anyone who takes ghusl on Friday like the ghusl of Janaabah, and then goes for the prayer (in the first hour), it is as if he had sacrificed a camel (in Allaah's cause); one who goes in the second hour, it is as if he had sacrificed a cow; one who goes in the third hour, it is as if he had sacrificed a horned ram;

one who goes in the fourth hour, it is as if he had sacrificed a hen; and one who goes in the fifth hour, it is as if he had offered an egg. When the Imaam comes out, the angels settle down, listening to the remembrance. " (BS, MM)

Salmaan al-Farsi narrated that the Prophet (may Allaah bless him & grant him peace) said,

"Whoever takes ghusl on Friday and purifies himself as much possible, then uses his (hair) oil or perfumes himself with his household scent, then proceeds (for the Prayer) and does not separate two people sitting together (in the mosque), then prays as much as is decreed for him, and then remains silent while the Imaam is delivering the sermon, his sins between that and the previous Friday will be forgiven. " (BS)

Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Messenger of Allaah (may Allaah bless him & grant him peace) said,

"When the Imaam is delivering the Khutbah, and you ask your companion to keep quiet and listen, then no doubt you have spoken wrongly. " (BS)

Regarding the Adhaan (call to prayer) on Friday

As-Saa'ib bin Yazeed narrated that in the lifetime of the Prophet (may Allaah bless him & grant him peace), Abu Bakr and 'Umar (Allaah be pleased with them), the adhaan for the Friday prayer used to be pronounced when the Imaam sat on the pulpit. But during the Caliphate of 'Uthmaan (Allaah be pleased with him), when the Muslims increased in number, a third adhaan at Az-Zawraa' was added. Abu 'Abdullaah said, "Az-Zawraa' is a place in the market of Madeenah. " (BS)

Permissibility of not attending the Jumu 'ah prayer if it is raining, & what the mu'adhhdhin says

Muhammad bin Seereen narrated: Ibn 'Abbaas said to his mu'adhhdhin on a rainy day, "After saying Ash-hadu anna Muhammadan Rasoolullaah (I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah), do not say, Hayya 'ala-s-Salaah (Come for the Prayer), but say, Salloo fee buyootikum (Pray in your houses). (The man did so.) But the people disliked it, so Ibn 'Abbaas said, "This was done by one who was much better than me (i.e. the Prophet, may Allaah bless him & grant him peace). Undoubtedly, the Jumu 'ah prayer is compulsory, but I dislike to put you to task by bringing you out walking in mud and slush. " (BS)

Regarding the Khutbah (sermon)

Anas (Allaah be pleased with him) said,

"The Prophet (may Allaah bless him & grant him peace) delivered the Khutbah on the pulpit. " Ibn 'Umar (Allaah be pleased with him) narrated: "The Prophet (may Allaah bless him & grant him peace) used to deliver the Khutbah while standing, then he would sit, then stand again, as you do nowadays. " (BS)

Jaabir bin 'Abdullaah narrated that a man entered the mosque while the Prophet (may Allaah bless him & grant him peace) was delivering the Khutbah on a Friday, so he asked him, "Have you prayed ? " The man replied, "No. " So he said, "Get up, and pray two rak'ahs. " (BS) Yahyaa related from Maalik ... that 'Uthmaan bin 'Affaan (Allaah be pleased with him) used to say the following in khutbahs, and he would seldom omit it if he was giving the khutbah:

"When the Imaam stands delivering the khutbah on the day of Jumu'ah, listen and pay attention, for there is the same reward for someone who pays attention but cannot hear as for someone who pays attention and hears. And when the iqamah of the prayer is called, straighten your rows and make your shoulders adjacent to each other, because the straightening of the rows is part of the completion of the prayer. "

Then he would not say the takbeer until some men who had been entrusted with straightening the rows came and told him that they were straight. Then he would say the takbeer. (MM)

Recitation in the Friday Prayer

The Messenger of Allaah (may Allaah bless him & grant him peace) use to recite in the jumu'ah prayer, Surah al-Jumu'ah (62) & Surah al-Ghaashiyah (88), or Surah al-Munaafiqoon (63) in the second rak 'ah instead of the latter, or he would recite Surahs al-Ghaashiyah (88) and al-A'laa (89) in the two rak'ahs. (MS, MM)

The sermon should be short, while the Prayer should be long

The Messenger of Allaah (may Allaah bless him & grant him peace) said,

"It is part of a man's understanding that he shortens his sermon and lengthens his prayer. " (MS)

Yahyaa related from Maalik from Yahyaa bin Sa'eed that 'Abdullaah bin Mas'ood said to a certain man,

"You are in a time when men of understanding are many but Qur'aan-reciters are few; when the limits of behaviour defined in the Qur'aan are guarded but its letters lost; when few people ask, but many give; when they make the prayer long and the khutbah short, and put their actions before their desires. A time will come upon men when their men of understanding are few but their Qur'aan-reciters are many; when the letters of the Qur'aan are guarded but its limits are lost; when many ask, but few give; when they make their khutbah long and the prayer short, and put their desires before their actions." (MM)