



**Friday Prayer:
The Wisdom behind it and
the exhortation for the people
to Attend it**

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All praise is due to Allâh ﷻ Who has guided us to Islam. Had He not guided us, we would never have been guided. I praise Him thank Him ﷻ for His sweet favors and hard afflictions. I further repent to Him and seek His forgiveness. I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Allâh Alone having no partners. I also bear witness that Muhammad ﷺ is His servant and Messenger, may the peace and blessings, of Allâh ﷻ be upon him, his family, his Companions, and everyone that follows His guidance until the Day of Reckoning.

O servants of Allâh! Fear Allâh ﷻ and be aware of the fact that Islam has clarified and explained every matter in this life and the Hereafter by showing us their basics and details. One of the many advantages of Islam is that it made the Friday congregational prayer obligatory upon every Muslim except women, children, slaves, travelers, and sick people. This noble day and solemn occasion is said to be the best day of the week. Adam ؑ was created, placed in Paradise, and expelled from Paradise on a Friday. Judgement Day will begin on a Friday as well. Also, on Friday there is an hour during which if any Muslim asks Allâh ﷻ for something while praying, his prayer will be answered. The nations before us were given the chance to choose this day as their sacred day — yet the Muslims were guided to choose it. So praise your Lord and fulfill on that Day what He has commanded you to fulfill. In regard to this, Allâh ﷻ says:

﴿ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ﴾

“Come to the remembrance of Allâh [*Jumu‘ah* religious talk (*Khutbah*) and *Salât* (prayer)] and leave off business (and every other thing).”(62:9)

The meaning of aspiring for the remembrance of Allâh ﷻ here is to be concerned about the Friday prayer and what it entails as well as to approach it with humility and tranquillity. Do not ignore it or be lazy

in performing it lest it cause your hearts to be sealed after which you will never be happy. In this regard, the Prophet ﷺ said:

«لَيَبْتِهِنَّ أَقْوَامٌ عَنْ وَدْعِهِمُ الْجُمُعَاتِ أَوْ لَيَخْتِمَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى قُلُوبِهِمْ، ثُمَّ لَيَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْغَافِلِينَ» .

“Some people should stop neglecting Friday prayers, or Allāh will seal their hearts, and they will thus be among the heedless ones.”

He ﷺ also warned:

«مَنْ تَرَكَ ثَلَاثَ جُمُعٍ مُتَهَاوِنًا طَبَعَ اللَّهُ عَلَى قَلْبِهِ»

“Allāh will seal the heart of the man, who does not pray three Friday prayers out of negligence.”

O servants of Allāh! On this blessed day, Allāh ﷻ has prescribed forms of worship that train and purify the soul, refine the faith, erase the sins, and strengthen the ties amongst you. The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ said:

«لَا يَغْتَسِلُ رَجُلٌ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ وَيَتَطَهَّرُ مَا اسْتَطَاعَ مِنْ طَهْرٍ، وَيَدَّهْنُ أَوْ يَمَسُّ مِنْ طِيبٍ بَيْنَهُ، ثُمَّ يَخْرُجُ فَلَا يُفْرَقُ بَيْنَ اثْنَيْنِ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِمَا، ثُمَّ يُصَلِّي مَا كَتَبَ لَهُ، ثُمَّ يُنِصِتُ إِذَا تَكَلَّمَ الْإِمَامُ إِلَّا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ الْجُمُعَةِ الْأُخْرَى» .

“If a person takes a bath on Friday, purifies himself completely, applies oil or puts perfume if available at his home, and sets out for the Mosque, refrains from separating between two persons without their permission, prays what is prescribed for him and listens to the *Imam* attentively, his sins between that time and the next Friday will be forgiven.” (*Al-Bukhārī*) A different narration states: “and also for three more days.”

The Messenger of Allāh ﷺ also said:

«غَسَلُ الْجُمُعَةِ عَلَى كُلِّ مُخْتَلِمٍ وَسِوَاكَ، وَيَمَسُّ مِنَ الطِّيبِ مَا قَدَرَ عَلَيْهِ»

“Taking a bath on Friday is mandatory upon every adult Muslim, so is using the *Siwak* (tooth stick). As for perfume, he

puts it on if available.”

During the speech do not let anything divert your attention. Do not spoil the opportunity to learn something that will benefit you. Part of the benefit is that the Muslims are maintaining the practice of reminding and thus correcting one another so as to achieve the happiness of this life and the Hereafter. So listen carefully with your ears and hearts. Beware of talking while the *Imam* is delivering his speech.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

«مَنْ تَكَلَّمَ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ وَالْإِمَامُ يَخْطُبُ أَوْ مَسَّ الْحَصَى فَقَدْ لَغَى، وَمَنْ لَغَى فَلَا جُمُعَةَ لَهُ.»

“Whoever talks or plays with rocks on Friday while the *Imam* is delivering his speech has played frivolously and whoever plays frivolously shall have no Friday prayer.”

This, of course, nullifies the reward but not the action. The Prophet ﷺ also said:

«مَنْ تَكَلَّمَ وَالْإِمَامُ يَخْطُبُ فَهُوَ كَمَثَلِ الْحِمَارِ يَحْمِلُ أَسْفَارًا، وَالَّذِي يَقُولُ لَهُ: أَنْصِتْ لَيْسَتْ لَهُ جُمُعَةٌ.»

“Whoever speaks while the *Imam* is delivering his speech is like a donkey carrying books, and whoever tells him to listen, shall have no Friday prayer.”

Beware of forcing your way between two people, as when the Prophet ﷺ saw some one doing so he told him:

«اجْلِسْ فَقَدْ آذَيْتَ وَأَنْتَ.»

“Sit down! You have come late and also harmed others.”

The harm stated in the *Hadith* is the violation of the Muslims’ dignity by forcing one’s way through the crowd and stepping over the shoulders of the Muslims. Allāh ﷻ says:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا
الْبَيْعَ ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ۝ فَإِذَا قُضِيَتِ الصَّلَاةُ فَانْتَشِرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ
وَابْتَغُوا مِنْ فَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ﴾

“O you who believe (Muslims)! When the call is proclaimed for the *Salât* (prayer) on *Jumu'ah* (the Friday prayer), come to the remembrance of Allâh [*Jumu'ah* religious talk (*Khutbah*) and *Salât* (prayer)] and leave off business (and every other thing). That is better for you if you did but know! Then when the (*Jumu'ah*) *Salât* (prayer) is ended, you may disperse through the land, and seek the Bounty of Allâh (by working), and remember Allâh much, that you may be successful.” (62:9,10)

With this I conclude my speech and ask the Almighty Allâh ﷻ to forgive all of our sins. So ask Him for forgiveness. Verily, He is the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful.