

Congregational Prayers in Islam

2. Salat-ul-Jumu'ah صلاة الجمعة : The Friday Prayer

UNIT E

CHAPTER

THREE

LESSON TWO

VOCABULARY

Jumu'ah الجمعة

Salat-ul-Jumu'ah صلاة الجمعة

Khutbah خطبة

Khutbat-ul-Jumu'ah خطبة الجمعة

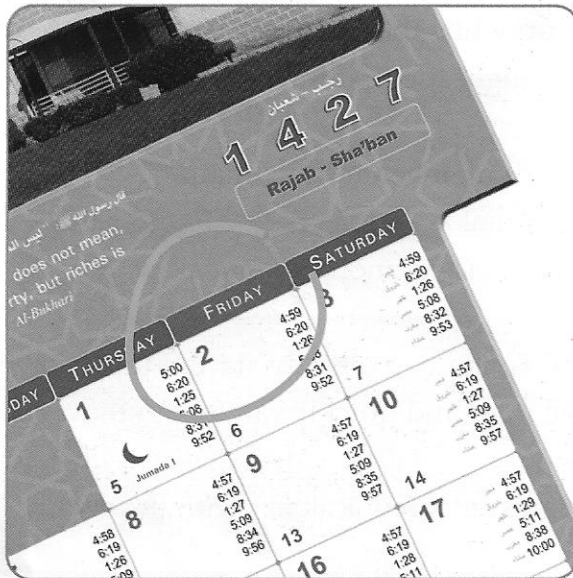
Khateeb خطيب

Ghusl غسل

For Muslims, Friday is the best day of the week. The Arabic word for Friday is الجمعة Al-Jumu'ah, which literally means "the gathering". Al-Jumu'ah is like a little holiday. Some people even call it "Eid-ul-Muslimeen" or the "Holiday of the Muslims." In many Muslim countries, people usually get Fridays off in order to perform more acts of worship and spend more time with their friends and family.

Allah places much barakah or blessing in Fridays. There are many special things we do on Fridays. The most important thing that Muslims do on Friday is perform صلاة الجمعة Salat-ul-Jumu'ah or the Friday Prayer. The Friday Prayer is a weekly communal prayer, which means that Muslims pray together in a group as one united community.

Let us learn the following Hadeeth about the importance of Yawm-ul-Jumu'ah, or the Day of Friday.





Masjid-ul-Jumu'ah in Madina, it's built on the place where the Prophet made the first Jumu'ah prayer in Madina



Hadeeth Shareef

عن ابي هريرة رضي الله عنه قال: قال رسول الله ﷺ :
 "خير يوم طلعت عليه الشمس يوم الجمعة ، فيه خلق
 آدم وفيه أدخل الجنة وفيه أخرج منها ، ولا
 تقوم الساعة إلا في يوم الجمعة."

رواه مسلم وأحمد ومالك

Abu Hurairah narrated that the Messenger of Allah (saw) said: "The best day on which the sun rises is Friday. On it Adam was created, and on it he entered Jannah, and exited Jannah, and the Day of Judgment will not start except on Friday."

Reported in Muslim, Ahmad and Malik

Salat-ul-Jumu'ah:

Salat-ul-Jumu'ah, or the Friday Prayer is a special congregational prayer that takes place during Thuhr time on Fridays. Although the Friday Prayer takes the place of the Thuhr prayer, it is different than the Thuhr prayer in that it is two Rak'aat rather than four. The Friday Prayer begins after the time for prayer starts and the call to prayer is given. It consists of a *خطبة* Khutbah or sermon before the two Rak'aat of prayer. The Khutbah is usually delivered by the Imam or a knowledgeable, righteous Muslim. The person who gives the Khutbah is called a *خطيب* khateeb. The outline of the Khutbah follows specific rules and is meant to teach us important lessons about Islam. The Khutbah is actually part of Salat-ul-Jumu'ah and it is therefore forbidden to speak after it starts. During the Khutbah, we should listen respectfully and attentively. The person who attends Salat-ul-Jumu'ah will be forgiven for all of the minor sins that he or she has committed since the last Jumu'ah.

Salat-ul-Jumu'ah is a fard or obligatory for every Muslim man. Allah has commanded that Muslim men should leave their work and go to the Masajid to pray during the time of Salat-ul-Jumu'ah. This means that it is Haram or forbidden for men to miss Salat-ul-Jumu'ah to work or do other things. This was revealed In Surat -ul-Jumu'ah as we see in the story below.

Story From The Life Of The Prophet

One time, Prophet Muhammad was delivering Khutbat-ul-Jumu'ah or the Friday sermon in the Masjid. The Muslims sat, listening attentively to his great speech, when a caravan suddenly drove noisily through the streets of Madina. There was a man with the caravan beating his drum and singing, calling the people to come and buy many beautiful products and ornaments.

When the Muslims in the Masjid heard the caravan coming, many of them got up and left the Prophet as he was speaking. They hurried towards the caravan to buy things. Twelve Muslims remained, including Abu Bakr and Umar, to listen to the rest of the Prophet's sermon.

Prophet Muhammad was saddened by the Sahabah's preference for wealth and trade over Salat-ul-Jumu'ah. Allah was also displeased by this as He revealed in Surat-ul-Jumu'ah. In these verses, Allah commands the Muslims to leave work and business in order to attend Salat-ul-Jumu'ah and He criticizes those who are distracted from Salat-ul-Jumu'ah by worldly pursuits. From these verses, we see that it is a fard or obligatory for Muslim men to attend Salat-ul-Jumu'ah and Haram or forbidden to miss it unless one has a valid excuse, such as being sick. It is also clear from these verses that Muslim men may go back to work after they have completed Salat-ul-Jumu'ah. Allah tells us that if we obey Him and leave our business to pray Salat-ul-Jumu'ah, it will be better for us and He will provide for us.

سورة الجمعة

Surat-ul-Juma'ah (62:9-11)

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ
وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٩﴾ فَإِذَا قُضِيَتِ الصَّلَاةُ
فانتشروا في الأرض وابتغوا من فضل الله واذكروا الله كثيراً لعلكم تفلحون
﴿١٠﴾ وَإِذَا رَأَوْا تِجَارَةً أَوْ لَهْوًا انفضوا إليها وتركوا قانماً قل ما عند الله
خيرٌ من اللّهُ وَمِنَ التِّجَارَةِ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ ﴿١١﴾

Understood Meaning

[9] O you who believe, when the call is made for prayer on Friday, then come quickly to prayer and leave all business. That is best for you if you only knew!

[10] And when the prayer is finished, then you may go throughout the land and seek the bounty of Allah. And remember Allah frequently that you may prosper.

[11] But when they see some business or amusement, they break up for it and leave you standing. Say: What is with Allah is better than amusement and better than business and Allah is the best of Providers!

Salat-ul-Jumu'ah is an Obligatory Weekly Congregational Prayer

Missing Salat-ul-Jumu'ah is such a grave matter that the Prophet ﷺ has said, "I would ask a man to lead the people in prayer so that I may burn the houses of those men who did not attend the Friday Prayer with us." He also said,



Work, business, and entertainment are prohibited during the Friday prayer time.

"Either they stop neglecting Friday prayers or Allah will set a seal on their hearts so they cannot find the right path again." (Reported by Imams Muslim, Ahmad and An-Nasa'ee). In another authentic Hadeeth reported by Abu Dawod, Tirmidhi, An-Nasa'ee, and Ibn-Majah, that the Prophet ﷺ said, "Whoever does not attend three Friday prayers, [without a valid excuse] Allah will set a seal on his heart."

Proper Manners of Salat-ul-Jumu'ah

Let us learn some Sunan and Adaab or Proper Manners of the Friday Prayer

1. Ghusl on Fridays

It is a Sunnah to make **غُسْلٌ** ghusl or wash oneself by taking a special bath or shower on Friday before the Jumu'ah prayer. Ghusl is a purifying ritual that is similar to a bath or shower, but contains a few additional steps.

2. Reading Surat-ul-Kahf

Reciting Surat-ul-Kahf every Friday is another Sunnah with much reward. The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said that whoever recites the

first ten ayaat of Surat-ul-Kahf before Jumu'ah prayer will be protected from Ad-Dajjal and the punishment of the grave. The Prophet ﷺ also said, "Whoever recites (the entire) Surat-ul-Kahf on Friday, Allah will give him a light till the next Friday" (Imams Al-Baihaqee and Al-Hakim).

3. Wearing neat clothes and perfume.

It is also the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad to wear the best clothes he owned and to put on perfume or musk for Salat-ul-Jumu'ah.

4. Going early to Salat-ul-Jumu'ah.



Muslims should go early to Salat-ul-Jumu'ah. Imams Al-Bukhari and Muslim reported that the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said, "If one washes himself and then goes to Friday Prayer, it is considered as if he donated a camel for the sake of Allah. However, if he goes in the second hour, then it is considered as if he donated a cow; and, if in the third hour, then as if he donated a big sheep; and, if in the fourth hour, then as if he donated a chicken; and, if in the fifth hour, then as if he donated an egg. Then, when the Imam starts delivering the sermon the angels come and listen to it."

5. Listening attentively to the Khutbah

The Khutbah is meant to remind us of Allah and teach us something of our religion. It is important that Muslims go early to Salat-ul-Jumu'ah and listen

attentively to the Khutbah from the very beginning. During the Khutbah, a Muslim should focus on the lessons of the Khutbah and avoid distractions. It is forbidden to speak, sleep, or do other things while listening to the Khutbah. According to Imams Al-Bukhari, Muslim, and others, the Prophet once said, "If you tell your friend to pay attention on Friday while the Imam is delivering the sermon then you have committed vain talk (which is sinful)."

6. Behaving respectfully in the Masjid.

Muslims should be respectful to others, especially during Salat-ul-Jumu'ah. For example, it is disliked to walk between people who are sitting during the Friday gathering, unless there is an empty spot to fill. In an authentic Hadeeth reported by Imam Abu-Dawod, Al-Nisai, and Ahmad, a man

was walking between people during the Friday gathering while Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was delivering his sermon, so the Prophet told him, "Sit because you caused harm to other people and you came in late."

7. Making Thikr and Du'aa during the Special Hour

The Prophet ﷺ said that there is a special hour on Friday, during which Allah will respond to those who make Du'aa' to Him. The Prophet ﷺ encouraged Muslims to remember Allah and make Du'aa' to Him at this time.

Scholars have different opinions as to the specific time of this special hour. Some say that it is during Salat-ul-Jumu'ah, but the stronger opinion is that this hour is the last hour of the day on Friday, meaning the hour just before Maghrib on Friday.

It is also recommended that we send abundant peace and blessings upon the Prophet on Fridays. We do this by saying :

صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ
وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

Sallallahu-Ala Muhammad wa Ala
Alihi wasahbihi wa Sallim.



Benefits of Salat-ul-Jumu'ah

Salat-ul-Jumu'ah has many benefits for us, including the following:

- We obey Allah and please Him.
- We receive much reward and blessing.
- We are forgiven for our minor sins from one Jumu'ah to the next.
- We are reminded of Allah and learn things about our religion from the Khateeb during the Jumu'ah Khutbah.
- We stay in touch with our community and meet new Muslims every time we go to the Masjid.