

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President  
Jamā'at Ahmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

**Extracts from the Friday Sermon delivered by Ḥaḍrat *Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London.**

In the beginning of his Friday Sermon Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) recited verses 10-12 of Surah Al-Jumu'ah:

يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْا اِذَا نُوْدِيَ لِلصَّلٰوةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا اِلَى ذِكْرِ اللّٰهِ وَذَرُوْا الْبَيْعَ ۗ ذٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ اِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُوْنَ ﴿۱۰﴾ فَاِذَا قُضِيَتِ الصَّلٰوةُ فَانْتَشِرُوْا فِي الْاَرْضِ وَابْتَغُوْا مِنْ فَضْلِ اللّٰهِ وَاذْكُرُوْا اللّٰهَ كَثِيْرًا لَّعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُوْنَ ﴿۱۱﴾ وَاِذَا رَاَوْا تِجَارَةً اَوْ لَهْوًا اَنْفَضُوْا اِلَيْهَا وَتَرَكُوْكَ قٰمًا ۗ قُلْ مَا عِنْدَ اللّٰهِ خَيْرٌ مِّنَ اللّٰهِوِّ وَمِنَ التِّجَارَةِ ۗ وَاللّٰهُ خَيْرُ الرَّٰزِقِيْنَ ﴿۱۲﴾

*“O ye who believe! when the call is made for Prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allāh, and leave off all business. That is better for you, if you only knew. And when the Prayer is finished, then disperse in the land and seek of Allāh’s grace, and remember Allāh much, that you may prosper. But when they see some merchandise or some amusement, they break up for it, and leave thee standing. Say, ‘That which is with Allāh is better than amusement and merchandise, and Allāh is the Best Provider.’” (62:10-12)*

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today is the last Friday of Ramadān which draws a large congregation and everyone makes a point of attending this prayer. The verses I have recited clearly explain the importance of Friday prayer. Allāh says that when you are called to the Friday prayer, do not show any kind of laxity. Immediately come for the prayer, no matter how busy you are. Even if it is the peak business hour and neglecting the business affairs could result in a loss of millions, you should not care about that and come to the mosque; because attending the mosque and offering prayer and listening to the Sermon of the Imām is a million times better than your worldly pursuits. But only those who possess knowledge and wisdom can comprehend this. Allāh says that when the Friday prayer is finished, you are free to go and busy yourself in your worldly affairs and trade, and God will bless what you do. But Allāh also makes it clear that your prayers are not to be limited to the Friday prayer, and those who remember God are mindful of the fact that they have to offer 'Asr, Maghrib and 'Isha prayers as well afterwards. These prayers are also obligatory and all worldly good comes through God's grace.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The obligation of attending Friday prayer and remembering Allāh and worshipping Him is not limited to Ramadān, rather it applies to Friday prayers throughout the year. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: Friday is a day of Eid and it has priority over other Eids because Surah Al-Jumu'ah was revealed specifically to remind us about attending Friday prayer. Most people, however, are oblivious to this Eid which Allāh teaches us to celebrate each week and do not accord it due importance. Some think that by attending the last Friday prayer of Ramadān they will reap the reward of all the Friday prayers of the past year. This is not so. Just as we give particular attention to the last Friday of Ramadān, we should give the same importance to each Friday throughout the year. Many people, however, are not mindful of this and miss their Friday prayers because of worldly pursuits. Allāh says,

remember that what Allāh has is much better than worldly profit, for it is He who provides for you. This is something every believer should try to understand, and it is even more important for us who have believed in the Imām of the age to realize this fact.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In order to fulfil our obligations to Allāh, we have to act according to His will. We have to remember to worship Allāh because it is the purpose for which He has created us. He says:

*“And I have not created the Jinn and the men but that they may worship Me.” (51:57)*

Allāh does not say that all you need to do is to offer the last Friday prayer of Ramadān and you will have fulfilled my commandments; rather He says that it is an on-going obligations that you need to fulfil from birth till death. Do not, therefore, consider just one Friday of the year to be of vital importance. When you come to the Friday prayer and listen to the sermon and remember Allāh, there comes a moment during the day in which whatever you pray for, is granted. That is to say, in that moment Allāh gives His servant anything he asks for, other than what is unlawful. This moment is not confined to a specific Friday, rather it comes on every Friday.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) says: Offering Friday prayer has been made obligatory on everyone who believes in Allāh and in the Last Day, with the exception of the sick, the traveller, women, children and slaves, because they have their constraints. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) says: Whoever ignores Friday prayer because of his worldly amusement or trade, Allāh will also ignore him. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) says: Good deeds are rewarded manifold on Friday. When a believer seeks Allāh's pleasure by obeying His commandments, including attending Friday prayer and being punctual in worship, you can imagine how Allāh will reward such a believer for these good deeds that are performed solely for the purpose of winning His pleasure.

With regard to being absent from the Friday prayer, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) says: Whoever misses a Friday prayer without genuine reasons will be considered a hypocrite in the eyes of God. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) also says: Allāh puts a seal on the heart of the one who misses three consecutive Friday prayers because of laxity, and as a result does less and less of good deeds. Coming to Friday prayer and other prayers without enthusiasm also leads to hypocrisy. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) said: Attend Friday prayer punctually, for a man might be left out of paradise on account of missing Friday prayers, even though he is eligible to enter paradise on account of other deeds. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) stressed the importance of Friday prayer on numerous occasions. Not once did he ever say that your sins will be forgiven if you attend the last Friday prayer of Ramadān. Rather he said that anyone who ignores Friday prayer because of worldly pursuits and trade and amusement, Allāh will also ignore such a person. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) did not only stress the importance of Friday prayer, he also said that a true believer eagerly awaits the next Salāt, the next Friday prayer, and the next Ramadān. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: We need to safeguard our prayers and set our priorities right. We need to strive to seek God and for this it is necessary that we know Him and understand His true status.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Often our supplications are focused on our personal desires. On the other hand, if they are focused on finding Allāh, we will be more steadfast in our supplications and we will not wait only for the Friday prayers but our hearts will look forward to each of the five daily prayers. It is the purpose of the advent of the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) to bring man closer to God. It is also the purpose of our Bai'at to come closer to Allāh and become His true servants. Our Salāt, Friday prayers and our Eids should all have the one goal: that of attaining nearness to Allāh. The reason why fasting of Ramadān is prescribed every year is so that believers may raise the standards of their prayers and their worship and maintain it until the next Ramadān when they can raise it even higher. We should not revert to our previous condition after Ramadān. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says that if our today is not better than our yesterday then we are not true believers.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today we have not gathered to say goodbye to Ramadān, rather we have come to pray that the steps we have taken in our worship and our love for Allāh are kept up. We have come to make a pledge that henceforth our relationship with Allāh is only going to grow stronger, Insha'Allāh. We can only pray in this way if we recognise the importance of attaining nearness to Allāh and realize that He is All-Powerful and the One who can produce the best results for us. But if we give more value to our amusements and worldly pursuits then we are like children who do not know the worth of diamonds and treat them as play things. Citing Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him), Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The value of a thing depends on one's need and knowledge of it. Some people view things in the light of their temporary needs; hence they strive for trivial things and ignore the truly valuable ones. We observe the same behaviour when it comes to prioritizing between worldly desire and seeking nearness to Allāh.

Many people ask me why it is that they pray with great fervour and yet their prayers are not accepted. I answer them in keeping with the verse which I explained in my first Friday Sermon of Ramadān wherein Allāh says:

*"I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me." (2:187)*

Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that this verse does not refer to everyone in general, rather it refers to those specifically who observe fasting for the sake of Allāh and observe prayers and spend their time in His remembrance. These are the people who safeguard their daily prayers and their Friday prayers and supplicate to Allāh at night. The word اَلْمُتَّقِينَ (supplicant) in this verse can refer to everyone who prays, but since we are talking in the context of Ramadān it refers to those who purify their worship for God and do not limit it to Ramadān, rather they extend it to the whole year. Such people do not pray for worldly desire but pray for God Himself. Allāh says that these people ask about Me for they want to find Me; they do not ask for food or jobs or any other material desires, all they seek is God who they want to meet; and so Allāh says that since these people are eager to find Him, He will reveal Himself to them. He does not say that He answers the prayers of everyone who asks for a job or food or matrimony. And it is often observed that those who pray for such things are not consistent in their worship and only pray and supplicate as long as they have a need. Thus their state of immersion in prayer is temporary. Some people write that they prayed so fervently for a matter, but God did not answer their prayer. God never says that He will fulfil all your worldly desires and accept all such prayers. On the other hand, He says that if we undergo a holy transformation and supplicate to Him seeking Him, then He does listen to our prayer and stands up for His servant and fights his enemy.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Having believed in the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him), it is our responsibility to raise our standards of worship and not let it fall below what we have attained in this Ramadān. We should become more punctual in prayers and maintain attendance in Friday prayers. Obey Allāh's commandments and strive to be among those who seek from God only Him. May all our prayers and worship be aimed at seeking God. May Allāh enable us to meet these standards. *Amīn*.

Please convey these guidelines given by Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) to the members of your Jamā'at.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 03 June 2019