

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

The Stress Islām places on Jumu‘a prayer is greater than that on the Eid prayer. The Jumu‘a prayer has its origins in the birth of Islām.

Jumu‘a-tul-widā is not the Friday that says farewell to good deeds, rather it extends those good deeds to the next Ramaḍān.

There comes a moment on Friday when any prayer a believer makes is accepted.

On 1st July, 2016, Ḥazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

After reciting verses 10 to 12 of Sūrah Al-Jumu‘a which are translated as follows:

"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)

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: When God made fasting obligatory, He also said that these are but a few days. Today is the 25th day of fasting and the last Friday of Ramaḍān. There are only four or five days left in Ramaḍān during which we should try to make up for any shortcomings. May Allāh overlook our faults, have mercy on us, and not deprive us of the blessings of Ramaḍān.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that people commonly refer to this last Friday of Ramaḍān as Jumu‘a-tul-Widā and think that all prayers are accepted on this day and all prayers and worship that was missed in the past can be made up by attending this Jumu‘a. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام has guided us and shown us the right path to the nearness of God. Once the Promised Messiah عليه السلام was asked: “Some people offer four rak‘as of prayer on Jumu‘a-tul-widā, which they call Qadāi Umrī [or the prayer that makes up for a lifetime of missed prayers]. Is such practice permissible?”

The Promised Messiah عليه السلام said that anyone who deliberately foregoes his prayer throughout the year, thinking that he will make up for them through Qadāi Umrī, is a sinner. On the other hand it is permissible for one who repents sincerely and offers it with the intention of never foregoing a prayer again.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that we offer Jumu‘a-tul-widā and say farewell to these blessed days with the intention and prayer that we will welcome the next Ramaḍān with all our abilities while remaining steadfast on the blessings that we have reaped in this Ramaḍān; that we will keep reminding ourselves of all the things that we have learned in Ramaḍān and always keep them alive; and that our steps will never stop trying to attain God’s nearness. It is Allāh’s blessing upon us that, as a sign of His love, he blessed every seventh day, which is Friday, with these same blessings.

The Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم says that there comes a moment on Friday in which any prayer a believer makes is accepted. Every virtue leads to God. The five prayers redeem for the faults committed by us from one Jumu‘a to the next and from one Ramaḍān to the next. Today each of us should make a pledge that this Jumu‘a and this Ramaḍān should make us mindful of safeguarding our prayers and offering the Jumu‘a prayer, and that all the virtues we have acquired in this Ramadan we will strive to extend them until the next Ramaḍān.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that every Jumu‘ah has its own importance even outside Ramaḍān. The Holy Qur’ān commands us to leave all our work for the prayer on Friday, and to disperse in the land after the prayer is finished and seek Allāh’s grace. Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that Allāh has blessed us with the gift of MTA which we should utilize to listen to the Khalīfa’s sermons. Missionaries should select extracts from the Khalīfa’s sermon and read them to their audience in their own sermons.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the day of Friday has a special affinity with the age of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام. Allāh has also attached special importance to the Friday sermon. He commands that if you have work to do, you should do it before and after the Jumu‘a prayer. Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that these days businesses have taken on an international dimension and keeps people more busy. Games and other such activities have also become globalised and can make one unmindful of the time. But in all these events you must be mindful of the Jumu‘a prayer. A believer’s priority should be to seek Allāh’s pleasure, hence it is impossible to think that he would forego the Jumu‘a for the sake his business. If you safeguard your Jumu‘a, it will bring you greater worldly blessings.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said according to a Ḥadīth the first one to come to the mosque for Jumu‘a is given a divine reward equivalent to the sacrificing of a camel, and this diminishes with each one that comes after. On the day of judgment people will be seated in God’s court in accordance with their attendance of Friday prayers. The Holy Prophet ﷺ is reported to have said that on Friday you should try to sit close to the Imām. One who keeps back from the Jumu‘a keeps back from paradise. The Holy Prophet ﷺ says that God seals the heart of a person who misses three consecutive Jumu‘as deliberately. This is a warning for those who consider the Jumu‘a to be something trivial. However, some have been granted exemption from attending the Jumu‘a, such as slaves, women, children, the sick, etc. Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the stress laid on Jumu‘a prayer is greater than that on Eid. Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the efforts made by the Promised Messiah ﷺ in the time of the British Government for Friday to be declared a holiday.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that our every word and deed should be a manifestation of the truth of Islām. The way to drink from the fountain of Islām is through fulfilling two obligations: our obligation to God and our obligation to His creatures. Today each and every one of us should promise to fulfil our pledge of Bai‘at and to make the blessings of Ramaḍān an abiding part of our lives. May Allāh enable us to do so. *Āmīn*

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

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Hameedullah)

Wakīl A‘lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan,

Dated: 05 July 2016