

Friday prayer

Issue No. 1- Friday prayer is Wajib Takhyiri, which means that we have an option to offer Friday prayer, if the necessary conditions are fulfilled, or to offer Zuhr prayer. Hence, if Friday prayer is offered then it is not necessary to offer Zuhr prayer.

Issue No. 2- Friday prayer consists of 2 Rak'ats like Fajr prayers. The difference between these two prayers is that Friday prayer has two sermons before it.

Issue No. 3- The following conditions must be fulfilled for Friday prayers to become obligatory:

- The time for Friday prayers should have set in. And that means that the midday time should have begun to decline. The time for Friday prayer is the earliest part of Zuhr until the time which is morally necessary for Azan and 2 sermons. If it is very much delayed, then Friday prayer time will be over, and Zuhr Prayer will have to be prayed.
- The number of persons joining Friday prayer should be at least five, including the Imam.
- The Imam should fulfill the necessary conditions for leading the prayers. These conditions include righteousness ('Adalat) and other qualities which are required of an Imam and which will be mentioned in connection with the congregational prayers.

Issue No. 4- The following conditions should be fulfilled for the Friday prayer to be correct:

- The prayers should be offered in congregation. Hence, Friday prayer cannot be prayed alone. If a person joins Friday prayer, even in the Ruku of the second Rak'at his prayers will be valid and he will have to add another Rak'at to complete it.
- Two sermons should be delivered before the prayers. In the first sermon the preacher should praise Allah and invoke peace and blessings upon the holy Prophet and his descendants, and exhort the people to observe piety, and then he should also recite a short chapter (Surah) from the holy Qur'an and pray for believers. Thereafter he should sit down for a short time and then stand up again for the second sermon. This time also he should praise Allah and invoke peace and blessings upon the holy Prophet and the all holy Imams and exhort the people to observe piety, and then he should also recite a short chapter (Surah) from the holy Qur'an and seek forgiveness for the believers. It is necessary that the two sermons should precede the prayer. It is recommended that the Imam talks about the important issues of the society in his sermon.
- The distance between the two places where Friday prayers are offered should not be less than one Farsakh (one Farsakh in shariah is 5 kilometers and 544 meters). Hence if the distance between the two places is lesser and both the prayers commence at

one and the same time the one which precedes will be in order and the other will be void.

5. It is Mustahab to listen to the Imam and to be silent while Imam delivers the sermon. But if a person talks, his prayer is not void.
