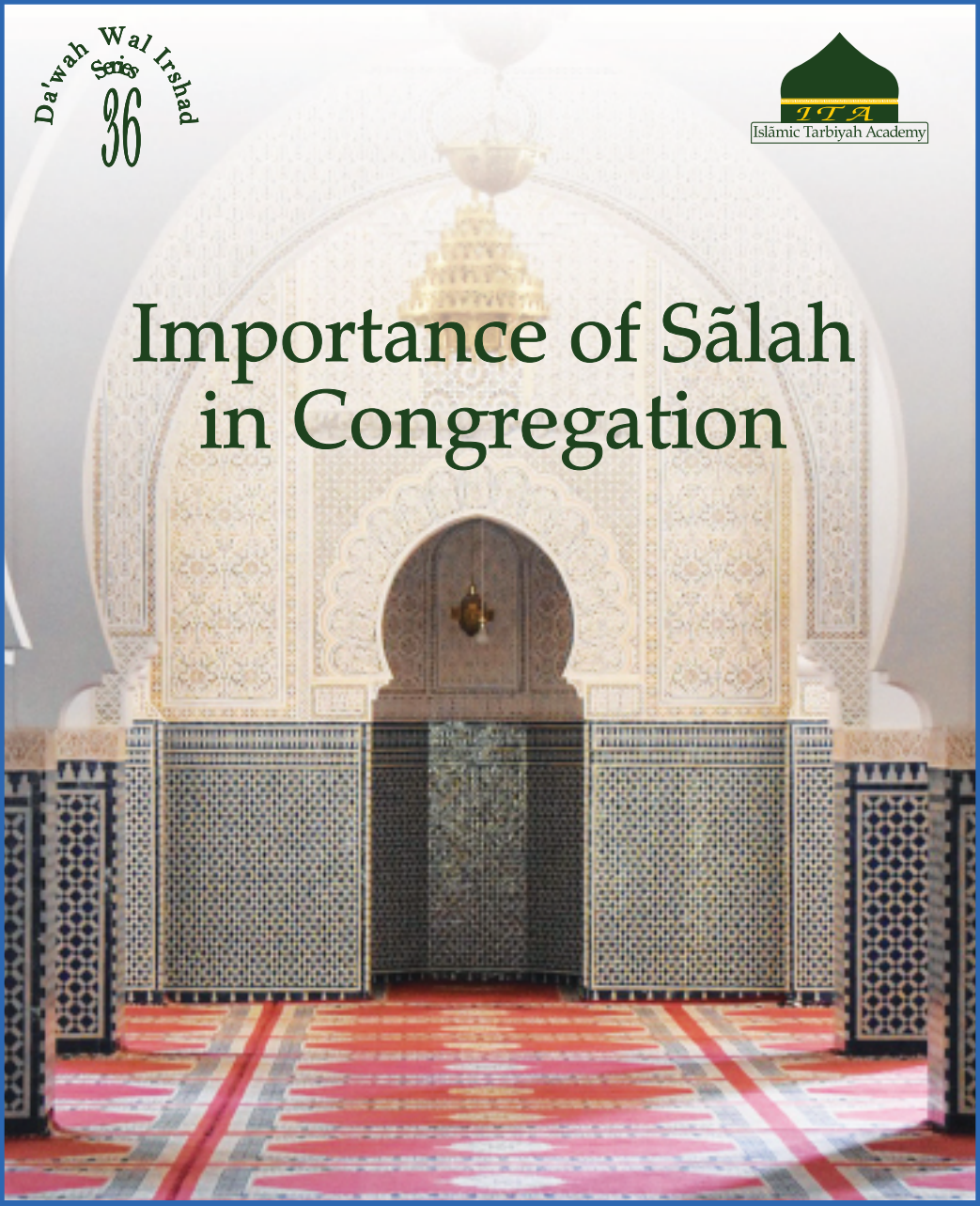
Da'wah Wal Irshad Series 36

ITA
Islāmic Tarbiyah Academy

Importance of Sālah in Congregation



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بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسَاجِدَ اللَّهِ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَلَمْ يَخْشَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ فَعَسَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ أَن يَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُهْتَدِينَ (التوبة: ١٨)

"*Only he shall inhabit masjids of Allah who believes in Allah and the Last Day, and performs the prayer, and pays the alms, and fears none but Allah alone; it may be that those will be among the guided*".
[Surah Taubah Verse 18]

The fact that both the Qur'ãn and Sunnah have laid great stress on the congregational Prayer and described its unique excellence, shows that the Fardh Prayer is meant to be offered collectively. The Qur'ãn says: " *. . . And bend down in ruku with those who been down in ruku*" [Surah Baqarah Verse 43]
Arguing from this verse, the commentators are generally of the view that the Prayer has to be offered collectively.

The emphasis of Rasulullah (ﷺ) both practically and verbally also indicate towards the importance of Salãh with congregation in the Masjid.

Sayyidinah A'isha (R.A.), described the event of Rasulullah (ﷺ) last illness, thereby stressing the importance and merit of the congregational prayer. She said: "One day when Azãn was pronounced at a Prayer time the Prophet (ﷺ) said: 'Tell Abu Bakr to lead the people in Prayer.' We said, 'Abu Bakr is a tender hearted man. He will not be able to stand your absence and lead the prayer properly.' The Prophet (ﷺ) again said: 'Tell Abu Bakr to lead the people in Prayer.' We again made the same remark whereupon the Prophet (ﷺ) replied: 'You are disputing with me just like the women disputed with Yusuf. Tell Abu Bakr to lead the people in prayer.' Accordingly, Abu Bakr took his place in front. In the meantime, the Prophet (ﷺ) felt a little better and he went out to the Masjid with the help of two men. I still remember the scene: the Prophet (ﷺ) was too weak to stand on his feet and walk properly. He was

dragging his feet along. Abu Bakr who had already started the Prayer wanted to step back, but the Prophet (ﷺ) beckoned him to carry on and the Prayer was completed under Abu Bakr's leadership." [Sahih Bukhãri].

The above incident is from the practical lesson left behind to his Ummah by Rasulullah (ﷺ). Below are the verbal instructions and Ahãdeeth of Rasulullah (ﷺ);

Merits of Salãh with congregation:

- Abdullah Ibn Umar (R.A.) narrates that the Prophet of Allah (ﷺ) said "The prayer in congregation is twenty seven times superior to the prayer offered by a person alone." [Sahih Bukhãri].

- Abu Hurayrah (R.A.) reported: The Prophet of Allah (ﷺ) said, "He who goes to the Masjid in the morning or in the evening, Allah prepares for him a place in Jannah whenever he goes to the Masjid in the morning and returns from it in the evening." [Sahih Bukhari/Muslim].

- Abu Sa'eed al-Khudri (R.A.) reported that the Prophet (ﷺ), said, "If you see a man who frequents the Masjid, then testify to his belief. Allah, the Mighty and Exalted, says, "*Only he shall inhabit masjids of Allah who believes in Allah and the Last Day…*' (9:18)" [At Tirmidhi].

- Anas (R.A.) narrates that the Prophet of Allah (ﷺ) said "The person who offers his prayers continuously for forty days without missing the first takbeer, is granted a two fold immunity from Allah – immunity from Hell-fire and immunity from hypocrisy." [At Tirmizi].

- According to Ubayy bin Ka'b (R.A.), the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "If the people come to know of the great rewards and benefits of the

congregational Prayer, they would never stray back but would rush to the Masjid for it. The first row merits the highest rewards and should be regarded as if it consisted of pure angels. Two persons praying together merit greater rewards than each praying individually, the rule being that the larger the congregation, the higher its rewards in the sight of Allah." [Abu Dãwood].

- Uthman (R.A.) has reported that he heard the Prophet (ﷺ) say: "The person who observes the Ishã Prayer in congregation will have the rewards and blessings of half the night in Prayer, and the one who observes the Fajr Prayer in congregation will have the reward and blessings of the whole night in Prayer." [At Tirmidhi].

Merits of Walking to the Masjid:

- Abu Hurayrah (R.A.) reported that the Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Anyone who purifies himself in his house and then goes to one of the houses of Allah to fulfil one of the obligations of Allah, one step removes an error and the other raises him a degree." [Sahih Muslim].

- Ubayy bin Ka'b (R.A.) said, "There was a man of the Ansãar and I do not know of any man who lived further from the Masjid than him. He never missed a prayer. It was said to him, 'You should buy a donkey which you could ride in the dark and when it is very hot.' He said, 'It would not make me happier if my house were right next to the Masjid . I want my steps to the Masjid to be written down for me and also my return when I return to my family. The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "Allah will combine all that for you." [Sahih Muslim].

- Jabir (R.A.) said, "The area around Masjidun Nabawi was empty and the Banu Salama wanted to move near to the Masjid and the Prophet (ﷺ) heard about it. He said to them, 'It has reached me that you want to move near to the Masjid?' They said, 'Yes,

Messenger of Allah, we do want that.' He (ﷺ) said, 'Banu Salama, keep the houses you have. Your footprints are written down. Keep the houses you have! Your footprints are written down.'" [Sahih Muslim].

- Abu Musa (R.A.) reported that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "The people who get the greatest reward for the prayer are those who live furthest away and then the next furthest. Someone who waits for the prayer so that he can pray it with the Imãm has a greater reward than someone who prays and then goes to sleep." [Sahih Bukhãri/Muslim].

- Burayda (R.A.) reported that the Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Give good news to those who go to the Masjid in the darkness of the night to offer the prayer in congregation that on the Day of Judgement they will be provided with a perfect light. [Abu Dãwood/At Tirmidhi].

- Abu Hurayrah reported that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "Shall I direct you to something by which Allah will wipe out errors and raise degrees?' They said, "Yes please, Messenger of Allah." He said, "Doing thorough wudhu' in adverse circumstances, taking a lot of steps to the Masãjid and waiting for one prayer after another prayer. That is what you should hold to. That is what you should hold to." [Sahih Muslim].

Glad tidings for the one who goes to the Masjid for Fajr and Ishã Prayers:

- Abu Hurayrah reported that the Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Nothing is harder on the hypocrites than the Ishã and Fajr Prayer; had they known of the great rewards that Allah would bestow for those prayers they would never have missed them even if they had to come (to the Masjid) on their knees." Then he said, "I wish I should tell a Mu'azzin to pronounce Iqãmah and appoint someone as Imãm in my place, and I myself go and set fire to the houses of

those who do not come out even after hearing the Azãn." [Sahih Bukhãri/Muslim].

Warnings of discarding Salãh with congregation:

- Abu Hurayrah (R.A.) narrates that the Prophet of Allah (ﷺ) said, "By Him in whose Hand my soul is in, I was about to order for collecting fire-wood (fuel) and then order someone to pronounce the Azãn for the prayer and then order someone to lead the prayer then I would go from behind and burn the houses of men who did not present themselves for the congregational prayer." [Sahih Bukhari].

- Abdullah Ibn Abbãs (R.A.) has reported that the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "The prayer of the person who does not come to attend the congregational prayer after hearing the Azãn, will not be acceptable unless he has a valid reason for this." When the Companions asked what was meant by a valid reason, he said: " Fear or illness." [Abu Dãwood].

- According to Abdullah bin Mas'ud (R.A.) the Prophet (ﷺ) said: "O Muslims! Allah has prescribed paths of right guidance for you (to lead you to real success) among which is the offering of the daily prayers in congregation in the Masjid. If you start saying your prayers individually at home, as so-and-so does, you will be forsaking the Sunnah of the Prophet. And if you forsake the Sunnah of your Prophet, you will certainly be going astray." [Sahih Muslim].

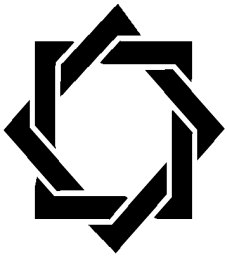
- Abu Hurayrah reported that the Prophet (ﷺ) said, "I wish I should tell a Mu'azzin to pronounce Iqãmah and appoint someone as Imãm in my place, and I myself go and set fire to the houses of those who do not come out even after hearing the Azãn." [Sahih Bukhãri/Muslim].

- Mu'az bin Anas (R.A.) narrates that he heard Rasulullah (ﷺ) saying, "A person who does not go for Salãh after hearing the Azãn is committing a great wrong and is doing an act of Kufr and Nifaq (hypocrisy)." [Ahmad].

May Allah Ta'ãla enable us to adhere to the above teachings of Rasulullah (ﷺ) and make us punctual with Salãh in congregation. Ameen.

The more one attends the Masjid one will become attached to the Masjid and become worthy of the following reward;

Abu Hurayrah reported that the Prophet (ﷺ) said; "There are seven whom Allah will shade with His shade on the day when there will be no shade except His: the just ruler; a young man who grows up worshipping his Lord; a man whose heart is attached to the Masjid; two men who love one another for the sake of Allah and meet and part on that basis; a man who is called by a woman of rank and beauty and says 'I fear Allah'; a man who gives in charity and conceals it to such an extent that his left hand does not know what his right hand gives; and a man who remembers Allah when he is alone, and his eyes fill up." [Sahih Bukhãri/Muslim].



ITA
Islãmic Tarbiyah Academy

For Development in Spiritual, Moral, Mental & Physical Discipline
In Accordance With The Islãmic Shar'iah

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