

Notes of Lectures on Fiqh

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Lecture #4 (Thursday 11 May 2006)

SALATUL JAMAAT

☀ Salatul Jamaat means offering salat in congregation, with one person leading and the rest following him. The person who leads is called the Imam (or Imame Jamaat), while those who follow him are called the Ma'mum or Ma'mumin (plural).

☀ Only wajib salat can be offered in congregation, except two types of mustahab salat, which can also be offered in congregation. These two sunnat salat are (a) Salatul Istisqa (Prayer for Rain) and (b) Salatul Eid (on Eidul Fitr Day and Eidul Adha Day). Note that Salatul Eid is itself wajib but it is mustahab in ghaibat (occultation) of Imame Zamana (a.s).

☀ For daily wajib salat, the minimum number of people needed to establish Salatul Jamaat is two - one Imam and one Ma'mum. For the Salatul Juma (Friday Salat), there must be a minimum of five people, including the Imam.

☀ It is highly recommended (mustahab) to offer daily wajib salat with salatul jamaat, especially Fajr, Maghrib and Isha salat.

IMPORTANCE OF SALATUL JAMAAT

☀ Various Hadith of the Holy Prophet (SAW) and the Holy Imams (AS) indicate enormous rewards and benefits for offering salatul jamaat as indicated below:

- (a) A salatul jamaat is 25 times better than the salat offered alone (furada salat).
- (b) If there is only one person behind the Imam, then each rakat carries sawab (reward) of 150 rakats. If two persons are behind the Imam, then each rakat carries the sawab of 600 rakats. If the number in jamaat is more than 10, then the sawab increases so much that no one can count the sawab except Allah.

☀ It is not permissible to abandon Salatul Jamaat unless there is a justified excuse.

☀ If a person lives in the neighbourhood of a mosque/Islamic centre, then he must not abstain himself from Salatul Jamaat in that mosque unless there is a justified excuse.

☀ If a person lives in the neighbourhood of a mosque/Islamic centre, and does not attend Salatul Jamaat in the mosque without a valid excuse, and instead prays alone (Furada) at home, his salat will not be accepted.

☀ It is Mustahab to wait for some time until the Salatul Jamaat begins with the intention to participate in the Salat, since a short congregational Salat is better than a prolonged Salat offered alone.

☀ It is also better to wait for the Salatul Jamaat to be established, even if it is offered after the prime time, rather than to offer salat alone at prime time but one must not ignore the importance of the fazilat time (time of maximum sawab) of salat.

☀ If a person has already read his salat alone and then finds that the Salatul Jamaat is going to be established, then it is Mustahab to repeat the prayers again in Jamaaat.

☀ If a person encounters so much doubt and worries during the salat that it leads to invalidity of salat, then he must offer his salat in jamaat.

COMPARISON OF SALAT OFFERED ALONE AND SALATUL JAMAAT

☀ There are certain differences to note if you are offering your wajib salat alone (called Furada Salat) or with congregation (Salatul Jamaat):

- (a) **Furada Salat:** You have to recite whole salat correctly yourself.
Salatul Jamaat: You are not allowed to recite Suras at all in first two rakaats. You must listen to Suras recited by the Imam, but if he is reciting Suras silently (as in Zohr and Asr), then it is recommended to recite Subhan Allah silently. And you must also recite all other things in salat yourself silently.
- (b) **Furada Salat:** Highly recommended to pray at prime time (awwale waqt).
Salatul Jamaat: Allowed to wait to join congregation salat.
- (c) **Furada Salat:** Less chance of acceptance of salat if mistakes happen.
Salatul Jamaat: Maximum chance of acceptance of salat. According to Hadith, if salat of one person is accepted by Allah, the salat of whole jamaat is accepted.
- (d) **Furada Salat:** Chances of doubt occurring is always there.
Salatul Jamaat: Almost no chance of doubt occurring in salat.