

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَنْ تَرَكَ الْجُمُعَةَ ثَلَاثَ مَرَّاتٍ تَهَاوُنًا بِهَا طُبِعَ عَلَى قَلْبِهِ.

FRIDAY PRAYER ETIQUETTE

Dear brothers and sisters who, in obedience to Allah's (swt) command, are standing shoulder to shoulder in our mosques on this blessed Friday! Jumu'ah mubarak! May Allah's (swt) peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Dear Muslims!

Today is Friday. It is the most auspicious of days upon which the sun rises.¹ Today is a blessed day on which we stand before our Lord (swt), raise our hands in supplication, and humbly seek forgiveness and pardon from Him for our sins. Today is our weekly day of celebration, when we strengthen our unity and solidarity, sharing in one another's sorrows and joys alike. It is a day of revival, when we cleanse our hearts of worldly concerns and welcome peace and tranquility.

Dear Believers!

Friday brings specific responsibilities that every Muslim is required to fulfill. One of these responsibilities is performing the Friday prayer. The Friday prayer is a unique act of worship to which our Almighty Lord (swt) has granted a special place in the Holy Qur'an. Friday, with its sermon, khutbah, and prayer, purifies us from our mistakes and sins, guides us toward good and righteousness, and equips us with knowledge, wisdom, and understanding, and brings us closer to the values that strengthen our social life. Every believer who seeks to benefit from this blessed time must set aside worldly concerns and heed the call of Allah the Almighty (swt). They should perform ablution with care, wear clean and appropriate clothing for prayer accompanied by pleasant fragrances, and arrive early at the mosque. Upon arriving at the mosque, they should observe the etiquette of the mosque as being a guest of Allah (swt), listening attentively to the recitation of the verses, the sermon, and the advice offered, with reverence and in awe.

Dear Muslims!

Another important responsibility that Muslims must fulfill on Friday is to listen attentively to the Friday khutbah. The khutbah is a prophetic address to the Ummah of Muhammad (saw), serving as a reminder of the commands and prohibitions of our Almighty Lord (swt). It is an invitation to humanity towards the way of Allah (swt), the light of Islam, and the beautiful morals exemplified by our beloved Prophet (saw). The khutbah is a requirement for the Friday prayer. It is not possible to speak of the Friday prayer without the khutbah. It is essential to listen to the khutbah with the same attentiveness and reverence as one would in prayer. Therefore, speaking with one another should be avoided during the khutbah. Greetings should not be exchanged. Mobile phones should not be used. In fact, the Messenger of Allah (saw) advises us to listen to the khutbah with such attentiveness that we should not even say "Hush!" to someone speaking while the imam is delivering the khutbah during Friday prayer.²

Esteemed Believers!

In the verse I have recited at the beginning of this Friday's khutbah, our Almighty Lord (swt) states, **"O believers! When the call to prayer is made on Friday, then proceed diligently to the remembrance of Allah and leave off your business. That is best for you, if only you knew."**³ Therefore, let us never neglect the Friday prayer, which symbolizes our submission to Allah (swt) and represents our unity and solidarity, except when there is a valid religious justification. Let us guide our children and youth towards prayer and the mosque with kind words and gentle encouragement. Let us treat them with love and compassion. Let us arrange our work, studies, classes, and exams in a way that ensures they do not overlap with the Friday prayer. Let us remember that the Friday prayer is an act of worship prescribed as fardh by Allah (swt). It is a grave sin and a serious injustice to deny believers this exceptional act of worship, forcing them to choose between the requirements of their faith and their work, for any reason.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with our Prophet's (saw) following warning: **"Whoever neglects the Friday prayer three times in a row without an excuse, then Allah sets a seal upon his heart."**⁴

¹ Muslim, Jumu'ah, 18.

² Muslim, Jumu'ah, 11.

³ Jumu'ah, 62/9.

⁴ Ibn Majah, Iqamat, 93.