

## **The Obligation of Joining the Congregational Prayer**

(Even Though You May Have Already Performed That Prayer At Home)

On the authority of **Yazeed Ibn 'Aamir** (RadiyahAllaahu 'an-hu), who said: I came to the Messenger of Allah (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) while he was performing the prayer (in congregation). I sat without joining them in the congregational prayer.

When the Messenger of Allah (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) finished the prayer, he saw me sitting (there), and said: **'Have you not entered Islam, O Yazeed?'** I said: Yes! O Messenger of Allah, I have definitely entered Islam.

He (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) said: **'What prevented you from joining the people in their prayer (in congregation)?'** Yazeed (RadiyahAllaahu 'an-hu) replied: Indeed, I have already performed the prayer at my home, thinking that you (all) have already performed the prayer.

He (The Prophet) SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam said: **If/whenever you come to the prayer and you find the people (in prayer) - then, you must pray with them, even if you have already prayed.** That one (which you prayed at home) will be considered as a voluntary prayer for you, and this one will be considered as the obligatory one." [Reported by Aboo Daawood. Shaykh al-Albaanee - in his checking of Mishkaat al-Masaabeeh, 1/363-364, Hadeeth no. 1155 & footnote no. 1 - said: Its chain of narrators is Saheeh (Authentic), and a group (of scholars) who I have mentioned in 'Saheeh as-Sunan', no. 490, also declared it to be Saheeh (Authentic)]

On the authority of **Busr Ibn Mihjan** from his father (RadiyahAllaahu 'an-hu) that he was in an assembly with the Messenger of Allaah (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) when the call to prayer (Adhaan) was announced. The Messenger of Allaah (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) then stood up [to go to the place of congregational prayer], performed the prayer and then returned, and Mihjan (RadiyahAllaahu 'an-hu) was still in his sitting place.

The Messenger of Allah (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) said to him: **'What has prevented you from praying with the people (in congregation)? Are you not a Muslim man?'** The father of Busr (RadiyahAllaahu 'an-hu) replied: Yes! O Messenger of Allah! However, I had already prayed with my family.

Then, the Messenger of Allaah (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) said to him: **'If/whenever you come to the Masjid and you have already performed the prayer, and then the Iqaamah (announcement to begin the prayer) is called - you must perform the prayer with the people (in congregation), even if you have already performed the prayer.'** [Reported by Maalik in 'al-Muwattaa' 1/132 and an-Nasaa'ee. In his checking of Mishkaat al-Masaabeeh, 1/363, Hadeeth no. 1153, Shaykh al-Albaanee said: Its chain of narrators is Saheeh (Authentic)]

On the authority of **Yazeed Ibn al-Aswad** (RadiyahAllaahu 'an-hu) who said: I witnessed along with the Prophet (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) his (farewell) Pilgrimage. So, I prayed with him the Dawn prayer at Masjid al-Khaif. When the Prophet (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) completed the prayer and turned away, suddenly he saw two men at the end (back) of the people who had not performed the prayer with him (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam).

He (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) said: 'Bring the two of them to me.' So, the two of them were brought to him trembling. Then, he (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) said: **'What has prevented you two from praying with us?'** The two of them said: O Messenger of Allaah (SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) we have already performed the prayer in our tents.

He (the Prophet, SallAllaahu Alaihi wa Sallam) said: **'Do not do that! Rather, whenever you have prayed in your tents, and then came to a congregational Masjid - you must perform the prayer along with them.** It (i.e. one of the two prayers) will be considered a voluntary prayer for you. [Reported by at-Tirmidhee, 1/426, Aboo Daawood and an-Nasaa'ee. In his checking of Mishkaat al-Masaabeeh, 1/362, 363, Hadeeth no. 1152 & footnote no. 2, Shaykh al-Albaanee said: Its chain of narrators is Saheeh (authentic)]