

It Is Not Allowed to Perform the Jum‘ah Prayer at Home: Coronavirus 2020

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allāh, The Most Merciful, The Beneficent

In light of the Coronavirus outbreak and as a result of many Mosques having to temporarily close, some individuals and organizations have instructed the Muslim community to establish the Jum‘ah Prayer at home.

This is incorrect because:

1. In the texts of the Quran and the Sunnah, it mentions a person proceeding to the Jum‘ah Prayer (*Surah al-Jumu‘ah*: 9) or leaving [the home] as found in a number of *Ḥadīth* (Bukhārī no. 881 and Muslim no. 850).

There is no text to legitimize establishing Jum‘ah while at home. Therefore, if a person has a valid excuse preventing them from attending Jum‘ah, they pray the Dhuhr Prayer [four *Rak‘ah*].

2. There are no reports of the *Salaf* praying Jum‘ah at home, and if it was allowed in these situations, they would have preceded us to it.

Abū Hurairah said (رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ):

“Enter the Mosque, as there is no Jum‘ah except in the Mosques.”¹

¹ *Muṣannaḥ Ibn Abū Shaybah* (no. 5545).

3. The maxim for acts of worship is that they are forbidden unless substantiated by a text, contrary to customs², as the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said:

“Whoever innovates into this affair of ours that which is not from it, then it is rejected.”³

4. The Permanent Committee of Scholars was asked (*Fatwá* no. 5628) the following question:

Question: If a person prays the Jum‘ah Prayer at home with his family and gives the sermon, claiming that he has offered the Jum‘ah Prayer, will his Prayer be valid?

Answer: Whoever prays Jum‘ah with his family at home, then they must repeat the prayer as Dhuhr. Their offering Jum‘ah [at home] is invalid because it is obligatory upon the men to pray Jum‘ah with their Muslim brothers in the Houses of Allāh, the Mighty and Majestic...⁴

5. It is not allowed for anyone listening remotely via the radio, internet or TV to pray the Jum‘ah Prayer as two *Rak‘ah* at home, following this broadcast because there is a significantly large distance between them. This is the position of the senior scholars of Islam.

We ask Allāh by His Beautiful Names to return us all swiftly and safely to the Houses of Allāh.

Hassan Somali

1st of Sha‘bān 1441H/March 26, 2020

² Refer to *Majmū‘ al-Fatāwā* (29/16-18)

³ Bukhārī (no. 2697) and Muslim (no. 1718).

⁴ *Fatāwā* of the Permanent Committee, volume 8, p. 196.