

Reconciliation between work and congregational prayer

Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Ferkous al-Qoobee

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: How is it possible to reconcile between work and congregational prayer?

Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Ferkous al-Qoobee (May Allaah the Most High preserve him):

All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

Congregational prayer is compulsory according to the majority of scholars and it is one of Allaah's rights. Work should not be an obstacle to perform it in the mosque congregationally unless there is an excuse such as illness or fear. As it is permissible to leave the congregational prayer behind for an occupation or embarrassment as it is mentioned in the hadeeth reported by Fadhaala Al-Laythi (May Allaah be pleased with him) who said: "The Prophet (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) taught me things from which was: **"And guard strictly the five obligatory prayers"**. I said: "Verily I am busy in those hours, so enjoin on me a comprehensive thing that will suffice me if I perform it" Then he said: **"Guard strictly the two prayers of Al-`Asr"**. But as I did not understand what it meant, I asked him: "What are the two prayers of Al-`Asr?" So he (May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: **"Prayer before sunrise and prayer before sunset"**¹. It is also permissible to miss the congregational prayer because of a rainfall or a muddy ground and similar things. Besides, if he is able to perform prayer in congregation at home or at his work place then let him do it. If he is unable to perform it in a congregation, though he desires sincerely to do it, and that he performs it individually because of one of the precedent impediments, his individual prayer is like the prayer in a congregation with Allaah's Will, because the person is able to reach with his or her intention what he or she cannot do with his or her deed.

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah (Mighty and Majestic is He). Our last prayer is all praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet, his Family, his Companions and Brothers till the Day of Resurrection.

Algiers, Rabee` Ath-Thaani 1st, 1426H. Corresponding to: November 21st, 2005.

¹ Reported by Aboo Daawood, chapter of "Prayer" (hadeeth 428), by Ahmad (hadeeth 19540) and Al-Baihaqee (hadeeth 2277) on the authority of Fudaala Al-Laythi. It is judged authentic by Al-Albaanee in As-Silsilah As-Saheehah (hadeeth 1813) and Saheeh Al-Jaami` (hadeeth 3122).