

FRIDAY SERMON  
OF  
IMAM ZAFRULLAH DOMUN

**12 April 2013**

After reciting the *Tashahhud*, the *Ta'uz* and the first chapter *Al Fatiha* of the Holy Quran Imam Zafrullah Domun read the following verse of the Holy Quran:

*“Yaa Ayyohallazina aamanou iza noudiya lissalaate min yawmoul jumate fas'aw ila zikrillahe wa zaroul bay Zalekoum khayroullakoum in kountoum ta'lamoune.”*

“O ye who believe! when the call is made for Prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off *all* business. That is better for you, if you only knew.” (62:10)

In this verse Allah has made it quite clear to all Muslims that they should resort to the mosque for the Friday prayers. As soon as one hears the call for prayer (*azaan*) one should leave all business transactions and resort to the mosque to attend Friday prayer. One might think that this is another routine prayer, it might be skipped. But Allah says in this verse that leaving all business and resorting to the mosque for the remembrance of Allah is better for all of us if only we could know of all its blessings. I understand from this statement of Allah that there are many hidden blessings in resorting to the mosque for Friday prayers but man is not aware of these blessings. Hence man should use the intelligence that Allah has given him to try to sort out the different type of blessings that Allah has placed in the Friday Prayer.

These days unfortunately for us our schedule of work has been making it difficult to leave everything and to resort to the mosque on a working day. But we all know that attending Jummah prayer is a must for all Muslims. Unfortunately we note that youngsters are not paying enough attention to attending the mosques for Friday prayers and they seem to think that it is all right for them to do so. The fact is that they might not be fully conscious of the fact that it is quite important for their spiritual life that they do attend the mosque for Friday prayers. In the brief sermon that is made before the prayers the preacher (*khatib*) usually gives some advice to the congregation on how they should live their lives in order to do good and avoid evil. Consequently everyone is reminded at least once a week about some of our religious duties. Constant reminders during the course of one's life will help everyone to know about the main aspects of our religious life.

So in today's sermon I will give some hadiths which will help us to understand in greater detail the importance of this one hour weekly meeting that we call Jummah Prayer. There are plenty of hadiths on this subject but I will remind you of the main ones. There is one authentic hadith which speaks about the blessings of being in the mosque early on for Jummah prayer. It has been reported by Hazrat Abu Huraira (ra) who said that the Holy Prophet (saw) said that “ When it is Friday, the angels stand at every door of the mosque and record the people in the order of their arrival, and when the Imam sits (on the pulpit for delivering the sermon) they fold up their sheets

(registers) and listen to the mention (of Allah). And he who comes early is like one who offers a she-camel as a sacrifice, the next like one who offers a cow, the next a ram, the next a hen, the next an egg.” This hadith may appear a bit laughable to many but the fact is that it just illustrates the importance of being in the mosque before the imam starts his sermon. It also creates a sort of competition amongst the Muslims who have been advised to “vie with one another in good deeds”, to try to precede one another in the mosques on Fridays. Since Friday is a day full of blessings, every Muslim should try his best to make the most of it. So according to this hadith each one of us should try to be in the mosque as early as possible, at least before the Imam stands up for the sermon.

These days because of work pressures some people are finding it difficult to be present in the mosque every Friday for prayers. For such people I advise that they should do their best to be present every Friday and they should also pray to Allah to open ways and means for them to do so. If however they are unable to do so they should at least see to it that they are not absent for three consecutive weeks because we learn again from the hadith that the Holy Prophet (saw) said: “People must cease to neglect the Friday prayer or Allah will seal their hearts and then they will be among the negligent.”

There may be many meanings for the words “sealing of hearts”, I think it means that we do not give to Allah the importance that He deserves in our life, we start to justify our absence in the mosque, we do not take care of our religious duties like prayers, Zakaat etc, we do not have any enthusiasm for prayer to Allah. The consequence of all these is that we become quite negligent and slowly we become a non practicing Muslim. May Allah preserve all Muslims from being amongst those who are negligent. If Muslims become negligent who will pray to the true Lord? As an Ahmadi Muslim it is our duty to care to lead the life of an authentic Muslim to the best of our understanding.

Again speaking about the special characteristics of Friday we have the following hadiths of the Holy Prophet (saw):

"The best day on which the sun rises is Friday. It is the day Adam was created. It is the day when Adam entered the Heavenly Gardens, the day when he was expelled from it and also the day he died. Friday is the day on which the Day of Resurrection will take place."

“There is no day more virtuous than Friday. In it there is an hour in which no one will pray to God except that God will hear his prayer”.

"Friday consists of twelve hours, one of which is the hour where supplications are granted for believers. This hour is sought during the last hour after Asr (the third prayer in the day)."

"Whoever recites ‘The Cave’ on Friday, God will give him a light to the next Friday." In another hadith we read that whoever recites the first and last ruku of chapter “the cave” will be protected against the spiritual onslaughts of Dajjal.

Hence we should not take Friday to be like any other day of the week. It is a day of prayer and meditation as well. We should read as far as we can these recommended verses and meditate over their meanings. These verses speak about the True Lord not the one that is fabricated by man's

imagination. It speaks of the early Christians who recognized Him as the Lord and Jesus as only the prophet. In the last verses Allah speaks about those people who are working frantically in this world and who think that they are achieving a lot. The truth of the matter is that those who do not labour for the hereafter are laboring in vain. These days the onslaught of *Dajjal* is everywhere. It is doing everything to lead man away from Allah. We cannot say that we or our children are completely immune from their attacks. But if we follow the advices of the Holy Prophet (saw) we would definitely be protected from the evil of *Dajjal*.

Again speaking about the greatness of Friday we learn from Hazrat Umar (ra) that it was on a Friday when the following verse was revealed:

“This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favor upon you, and have chosen Islam as your religion.” (5:3)

A learned person from among the Jews said to Omar Ibn Al Khattab “In the Quran you people read a certain verse; if that verse had been revealed to us, we would have celebrated that day annually.” Omar asked, “Which verse is that?” The man replied, “**This day, I have perfected your religion for you**’. Omar then said, “Verily I remember the day and the place where this verse was revealed. It was already a double celebration for us. Firstly it was Friday-a day of Eid (celebration) for all Muslims and secondly, it was the day of Arafat – the most important day of the Hajj.” Omar further stated that this verse was revealed after Asr (afternoon prayer) while Prophet Muhammad(saw) was sitting on his camel.

In addition the Holy Prophet (saw) is also reported to have said:“He who performed ablution well, then came to Friday prayer, listened (to the sermon), kept silent, all (his sins) between that time and the next Friday would be forgiven with three days extra, and he who touched pebbles caused an interruption.”

This hadith helps us to understand the importance of performing our ablution in the proper way and then proceed to the mosque for the Jummah Prayer. Once we arrive in the mosque we should sit in the ranks (*saff*) starting from the first one. Moreover we should not get involved in any type of conversation and during the sermon we should listen to it and see how best to practice what we hear. Unfortunately for many attending the sermon is just routine and they forget most of what they have been told almost immediately after. In fact I personally think that one has to listen with a view to remember and put into practice all the advices that are heard. By so doing one will listen with concentration and will not be either distracted or fall asleep and start snoring. The last part of the above quoted hadith says that “**he who touched pebbles caused an interruption.**” We should remember that in the time of the Holy Prophet(saw) the mosque was on bare grounds and so there might have been small pebbles around and out of distraction some persons might have played with them during the sermon. Hence the advice is that while the Imam is speaking there should be no distraction at all. While you are sitting in the mosque one cannot be engaged in any other action but listening and digesting what is being said.

Furthermore Friday is the day for sending as much *Darood* as one can on the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). We learn from the hadiths that the Holy Prophet (saw) has said:

*“Indeed the best of your days is Friday, so invoke many salutations [salawat] upon me in it, because your salutations are shown to me.”*

Some then asked, “O Messenger of God! How will our salutations be shown to you after you have passed?”

He said, “*God, the Mighty and Majestic, has forbidden the earth (to eat) the bodies of the prophets.*”[**Abu Dawud**]

So we should all try to find sometime on Fridays to send more *Darood* on the Holy Prophet (saw). Since Allah is All Powerful we can easily understand that He is capable of showing the Holy Prophet (saw) all the *Darood* that people of his umma has been sending on him. Regarding the last part of the hadith there is nothing out of the ordinary in the statement because today we are well aware that the bodies of many saintly personalities have not been eaten by the earth(decomposed). Hence it is not at all difficult to understand that the bodies of the prophets do not get decomposed even if we take the literal meanings of the words. Anyhow Allah knows best.

To end I would like to relate a dream that I saw last week. I am relating it because I think that it has some meanings. I saw that I was in the mosque of the Promised Messiah. I was repairing electricity in it. The way I understand it is that there were some problems with the wiring of a lamp and I was called to repair it. Once I finished the repair work and was descending from the stool on which I was standing Hazrat Masih Maood (as) approached me and asked me to lead the prayer. At first I hesitated but he insisted. So I said “where is my cap?” He indicated to me where it was and I woke up. The mosque represents the community, the Jamaat. I was called in to repair what brings in light. And the Promised Messiah asked me to lead the prayer , in other words to be the Imam. As they say “*samajdaron ke liye ek ishara kaafi hay*” meaning “A word to the wise is sufficient”. Compare this dream to the revelation that I received in the beginning “*Yaa qutub uddin unzur ila Jamaa'ati*” meaning “ O Pole of religion look after My Jamaat”. These days if there is a Jamaat of Allah and it is the Jamaat created by Hazrat Masih Maood (as) whose electrical wiring need to be repaired for it to produce spiritual light. May Allah help all of us to stay on the right path.

In addition just before waking up after Fajr prayer, with great force the following words were revealed to me “*Balillaho Mawlakomoul haq wa howa khayroun naasereen*” meaning “Nay it is Allah who is your true Protector and He is the best of those who can help”. A few seconds later I received “*Wa man azlamon mimman katama shahadatam minallahi*” meaning “who is more unjust than He who hides the evidences that He has from Allah”. If these words are applied to me it has a meaning of which I am aware regarding some revelations that I have not yet published. Regarding others it has the meaning that some people within the Jamaat have evidences that what we are saying is the truth but yet they keep it to themselves and they do not speak about it. Allah knows best. May Allah give all of us additional faith and may He help us to be always loyal to Him.