

Missing the Maghrib Prayer due to breaking fast by Sheikh Bin Baaz, may Allah have mercy upon him.

Questioner says: In Ramadan I do not pray Maghrib with the congregation and that is because of the farness of the masjid and me being preoccupied with breaking fast. Keeping in mind that I pray all the rest of the obligatory prayers in the masjid with the congregation. So what is the ruling on this? May Allah reward you with good.

Answer: That which is obligatory upon you is to pray Maghrib in the masjid just like all the rest of the obligatory prayers if you are capable and you hear the call. Due to the saying of the Prophet, sallahu 'alayhi wasallam: (Whoever hears the call and doesn't come, then he has no prayer except for an excuse.) It was said to Ibn 'Abbaas, may Allah be pleased with them both, what is the excuse? He said: Sickness or fear.

And in Saheeh Muslim, the Prophet, sallahu 'alayhi wasallam, was asked by a blind man: (Oh Messenger of Allah, I do not have anyone to lead me to the masjid so is there any leave for me to pray in my home? The Prophet, sallahu 'alayhi wasallam, said to him: Do you hear the call for prayer? He said: Yes. The Prophet, sallahu 'alayhi wasallam, said: Then respond to it.) And in another narration other than Muslim, he, sallahu 'alayhi wasallam, said: (I do not find any leave for you (i.e. to do otherwise.)

So if the Prophet, sallahu 'alayhi wasallam, didn't permit for a blind person who doesn't have anyone to guide him (to the masjid), nor did he, sallahu 'alayhi wasallam, pardon him, then what about one who is (totally) capable of going to the masjid to pray and can see?! He is first and foremost not going to be excused.

So if you hear the call (i.e. the athaan), it is upon you to race (towards it). Eat from that which is easy for you from the fatoon (breakfast); three dates, five dates, whatever is easy then head for the prayer.

The Prophet, sallahu 'alayhi wasallam, and his Companions, may Allah be well pleased with them, used to break their fast then head out for the prayer (in jamaa'ah). Hence, you must do likewise. Break your fast with that which Allah makes easy for you then proceed to the prayer. However if the masjid is distant from you and you don't hear the athaan because of that, then you

are excused. But if you drive to it (i.e. the prayer) and bear the difficulty (in that) it will be more virtuous and greater for your reward.

And the intent by athaan is the normal athaan without the loudspeakers. The one where the voice is heard by the normal athaan and upright voice, the one when the voices subside (it) can be heard from your place (i.e. where you are at).

As for it -the athaan- being heard by way of the loudspeakers and it is far and you only hear it by way of that, then this doesn't concern you if it is far away. However if you were to go and endure the hardships or by driving in a car this is better for you and more superior.

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