

Leaving a mosque that is close by to pray in another mosque

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al-Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)¹ in his Majmoo` Fataawaa vol. 14 pg. 241 was asked the following question:

Question: O Noble Shaykh, some people in the Month of Ramadhaan leave the mosque that is close to them to pray in another mosque because their hearts are more attentive there, and the Prophet sallAllaahu alaihi wa sallam has said: **“A man should pray in the mosque that is next to him and he should not follow different mosques.”**² Give us the verdict, may Allaah forgive you.

Answer: This narration according to what I know, there is a difference of opinion regarding its authenticity, and if we were to say it was authentic then it would be taken to mean: if, by praying in mosques further away this caused the congregation to spilt away from the mosques that were close to them.

Otherwise it is well known that the companions (رضي الله عنهم)³ would intend the Prophet’s mosque so that they could pray behind the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)⁴, to the extent that Mu`aadh (رضي الله عنه)⁵ would pray with the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) the Isha prayer, then he would return to his people and lead them in prayer at a later time.

As for people intending a mosque due to the fineness of the recitation, and if the fine recitation of his Imaam aided him upon standing in prayer – there is no harm in that; except if he were to fear discord (fitnah), or he feared offending the Imaam that was close by; for example if he was from amongst the elders of his people, and by him leaving his mosque for another mosque there was something of an insult to his Imaam in that, here it could be said: It is befitting to take into account such a harmful outcome, so he stays away from such.

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² Reported by at-Tabaree in ‘al-Kabeer’ 12/370, and al-Haythamee in ‘al-Majma’ 2/23, also see as-Saheehah of al-Albaanee no. 2200

³ (رضي الله عنهم) (rad iyallahu ‘anhum) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with them

⁴ (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

⁵ (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him