
Combining prayers at work

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

A man works in an air traffic control tower at an airport, and sometimes [while] at work prayer time comes round, if he were to leave his post to pray he would place the lives of the passengers at risk, so what is the solution?

Shaykh al-Albaanee (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ)¹: Such a person should prepare for this [situation] by combining two prayers and not taking them out of their prescribed times, since a resident combining the prayers is something which Allaah has facilitated for the Muslims as occurs in the hadeeth of Abdullaah ibn Abbaas (rad iyallaahu `anhu)², that he said, “The Messenger of Allaah (صلى الله عليه وسلم)³ joined Dhuhr with ‘Asr, and Maghrib with Ishaah in Madeenah when there was no fear and no rain.” They asked, “Why did he do that?” He replied, “So that his Ummah would not be subjected to hardship.”⁴

And he can [also] lighten his prayer to get back to work [more quickly].

The important thing is that a person is a witness over himself. So he has to preserve the orders of Allaah on one hand, and carry out his job faithfully/with integrity on the other. So he must try to reconcile between the implementation of both issues: issues relating to the Sharee’ah, and those relating to his job.

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah have mercy on him

² (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah be pleased with him

³ (صلى الله عليه وسلم) May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him

⁴ Saheeh Muslim, no. 1633