

The Number of People Required for the Friday Prayer

In his book “*Fiqh-us-Sunnah*”, the late **Sheikh Sayyed Sabiq** (may Allah be pleased with him) states: “There is no dispute among the scholars that a congregation is a condition for the validity of *Salatul Jumu`ah* (Friday Prayer). This is based on the Hadith of Tariq Ibn Shihab who reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: **“*Al-Jumu`ah is an obligation (Wajib) upon every Muslim in the community.*”**

However, the scholars differ on how many people are required for *Salatul Jumu`ah*. There are about fifteen opinions on this issue and Ibn Hajar mentions them in “*Fath Al-Bari*”. The view believed to be the most correct is that *Salatul Jumu`ah* is valid if there are two or more people present. This is based on the Hadith in which the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) is reported to have said: **“Two or more constitute a congregation.”**

Imam Ash-Shawkani states: “The other Prayers are considered to be made in congregation if there are two people present. The same applies to *Salatul Jumu`ah*, unless there is a reason for it to be different. There is no evidence to show that [for the purpose of the congregation] its number should be larger than that for the other Prayers.”

‘Abdul Haqq says: “There is no confirmed Hadith on the number of people needed for *Salatul Jumu`ah*.”

Likewise, As-Sayuti holds: “There is no confirmed Hadith that states a particular number (for *Salatul Jumu`ah*).” This is also the opinion held by At-Tabari, Dawud, An-Nakha`i, and Ibn Hazm.

Based on the above-mentioned Fatwa, we can conclude that it is valid for to hold *Salatul Jumu`ah*; with two or more persons, and it is not a condition to reach the number you mentioned in the question.