
Following Imaam via live video or radio broadcast

Translated by Raha ibn Donald Batts

Article taken and slightly adapted from: mtws.posthaven.com

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allaah the most Kind the most Merciful

Question: May Allaah treat you well and bless you. This questioner (initials) N.A.J. from Oman province says: If the prayer is broadcast on the radio or television live, is it permissible for the woman to pray along with the radio or television for the night prayer in the blessed month of Ramadhaan; likewise, the Jumu'ah prayer, bearing in mind that the time between there and Makkah differs by approximately an hour. She intends (by her question) the following of (the prayer made) in Makkah.

Shaykh Ibn Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ)¹: It is not permissible for a person to follow the Imaam by way of the television nor by way of the radio. This is because from the conditions of following in that the person be within the same place as the Imaam. So he is present at the Masjid in which is the Imaam; unless the Masjid is full and the ranks are full, then the prayer is correct, even if it be outside the Masjid. From that which is known is that the one who watches the television from Masjid Al-Haraam or Masjid An-Nabawee while being in other places, this condition is not fulfilled with him. Therefore, it is not correct to be led by an Imaam whose prayer is broadcast over the television, or the phone; whether the one praying may be a woman or a sick man or a healthy man. Rather, it is said: He who has the ability to attend the place (of prayer), then he should attend. He who does not have the ability then he is not to follow an Imaam that is far away from him.²

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

² Source: Silsilah Fataawaa Noor 'Alaa Ad-Darb Tape no. 332