21616 - Should One Pray The Missed Prayer First?

the question

If I miss a prayer for a reason such as sleeping, should I pray the prayer I have missed or the present prayer, if the present prayer has already been prayed in congregation?

Summary of answer

If you miss a prayer, then you have to pray that prayer first, then pray the current prayer; it is not permissible to delay making up the missed prayer.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Importance of offering prayer on time

The Muslim should maintain the habit of praying regularly on time , for Allah praises the believers who, as He says (interpretation of the meaning):
“And those who guard their Salah (prayers) well.” [Al-Ma’arij 70:34]

Making missed up prayer

If a person has an excuse and he missed a prayer, then he has to make it up , because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Whoever forgets a prayer or sleeps and misses it , the expiation for this sin is to pray it when he remembers it.” (Narrated by Muslim, Al-Masajid wa Mawadi` Al-Salah, 1103)

Should one pray the missed prayer first?

If you miss a prayer , then you have to pray that prayer first, then pray the current prayer; it is not

permissible to delay (making up the missed prayer). It is commonly thought among the people that if a man misses an obligatory prayer, he should make it up with the corresponding obligatory prayer of the next day, so that if, for example, he missed Fajr on one day he can only pray it with Fajr on the second day. This is wrong, and it goes against the teaching of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), in both his words and deeds.

It was narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Whoever forgets a prayer or sleeps and misses it, then let him pray it when he remembers it.” He did not say, let him pray it on the following day when the time for that prayer comes, rather he said, “let him pray it when he remembers it.”

With regard to the Prophet’s actions, when he missed a prayer on one of the days of the campaign of Al-Khandaq, he prayed it before the current prayer , which indicates that one has to pray the missed prayer and then pray the current prayer. But if he forgets and prays the current prayer before the missed prayer, or he was ignorant and did not know (of the ruling), then he prayer is valid because he has an excuse. (See Fatawa Ash-Shaykh Ibn `Uthaymin, vol. 12, p. 222)

The hadith about the prayer on the day of Al-Khandaq was narrated by An-Nasa’i from ‘Abd Ar-Rahman ibn Abu Sa`id from his father, who said: “The disbelievers kept us busy on the day of Al-Khandaq and distracted us from praying Dhuhr until the sun set. Then the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) commanded Bilal to call the Iqamah for Dhuhr prayer, and he prayed it, then he called the Iqamah for Asr and he prayed it, then he called the Adhan for Maghrib then he prayed it as he usually prayed it, on time.” (Al-Adhan, 655; classed as authentic by Al-Albani in Sahih An-Nasa’i, no. 638)

Making up missed prayers: In what order?

The action of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) indicates that it is obligatory to pray the missed prayers in the right order . But if there is only enough time left to pray the current prayer, then he should pray the current prayer, then pray the ones that came before it.

And Allah knows best.