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### Leaving the congregation and offering Salah at home

The first question of Fatwa no. 13344

**Q 1:** There are about 21 houses in our village. These houses are located very close to one another. There is a Masjid (Mosque) in the middle of the village that was built a long time ago. The farthest house is only 500 meters away from the Masjid, but the people of the village do not offer Salah in the Masjid in congregation. We tried every possible way but they did not respond. People use the far distance as an excuse, all of them have the ability to go to the Masjid because each one of them has a car. It should be noted that the nearest house is 40 meters away. May Allah guide them! Each one of them has established a Masjid in his house to offer Salah there and says: Is Paradise to be approached only through the Masjid of the village? What is the ruling on that? What is your advice to them, May Allah reward you with the best?

**A:** It is obligatory upon the people of the village to offer the five obligatory Salahs in the Masjid which is located amidst the villages because Salah in congregation is obligatory. The Masjids they have built in their houses should be used for performing the supererogatory Salah and voluntary night Salah. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said,

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( Perform some of your (supererogatory) Salah at home and do not make it like graves (by not praying therein). )

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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