

Jumu'ah: A Window to the Ultimate Gathering

Friday Khutbah delivered by Imam Didmar Faja at UICA — Friday, October 3, 2025

All praise is due to Allah, who gathers us each Friday in remembrance of Him, as a mercy and a reminder of the greater gathering on the Day of Judgment. We thank Him for guiding our steps to this blessed assembly, and we send peace and blessings upon our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, who taught us the value of coming together in worship and reflection before the ultimate gathering in the Hereafter.

Besides understanding that Jumu'ah is the weekly gathering of the community for prayer and reflection, it also offers us an opportunity to ponder upon the ultimate gathering (al-jam') — the Day of Judgment, when all creation will stand before Allah ﷻ.

Let us reflect on some of the Qur'anic verses where Allah mentions this concept of gathering and draw lessons from them for our own weekly assembly.

1. The Gathering of All Humanity

Every Jumu'ah is a reminder of that grand assembly — when no soul will be hidden, and every action will be brought forth. The way we prepare and attend Jumu'ah can serve as a reflection of how seriously we prepare for that ultimate day. Allah ﷻ says:

يَوْمَ يَجْمَعُكُمْ لِيَوْمِ الْجُمُعِ ذَلِكَ يَوْمِ التَّغَابُنِ

“The Day He will assemble you for the Day of Assembly — that will be the Day of mutual loss and gain.” (Surah at-Taghābun, 64:9)

2. The Gathering of the Hypocrites and the Righteous

As we gather for Jumu'ah, we should ask ourselves: Which group will we belong to on that final Day — the hypocrites or the righteous?

إِنَّ اللَّهَ جَامِعُ الْمُنَافِقِينَ وَالْكَافِرِينَ فِي جَهَنَّمَ جَمِيعًا

“Indeed, Allah will gather the hypocrites and the disbelievers all together in Hell.”

(Surah an-Nisā', 4:140)

Today we sit together in the masjid, but on that Day, our faith and deeds will determine our true destination. And I pray that we all have a good one.

3. The Gathering of the Messengers

On the Day of Jam', even the Messengers will be gathered and questioned:

يَوْمَ يَجْمَعُ اللَّهُ الرُّسُلَ فَيَقُولُ مَاذَا أُجِبْتُمْ قَالُوا لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ عَلَّامُ
الْغُيُوبِ

“[Be mindful of] the Day when Allah will assemble the Messengers and He will ask, ‘What was the response you received?’ They will say, ‘We have no knowledge. Indeed, You are the Knower of the unseen.’” (Surah al-Mā'idah, 5:109)

If even the Messengers will be asked, what about us? How are we responding to our involvement in spreading The Message?

4. The Gathering of the Rejecters

There are gatherings that lead to truth, and others that unite upon falsehood. Allah reminds us of the magicians who gathered in defiance of Mūsā عليه السلام:

فَجُمِعَ السَّحَرَةُ لِمِيقَاتِ يَوْمٍ مَّعْلُومٍ . وَقِيلَ لِلنَّاسِ هَلْ أَنْتُمْ مُجْتَمِعُونَ

“So the magicians were gathered for a well-known day. And it was said to the people, ‘Will you all assemble?’”

(Surah Al-Shu‘arā’, 26:38–39)

We too are called to gather every Friday — not in defiance, but in gratitude, humility, and remembrance of Allah. Do we truly appreciate this opportunity to assemble for His sake?

Essential Behaviors to Consider Every Jumu‘ah

- Attend Jumu‘ah to benefit from the gathering, not to lose its blessings through the tongue — by criticism, gossip, or distraction.
- Come with intention and eagerness. The Qur’anic command “hasten” (فَاسْعَوْا) — (Surah Al-Jumuah, ayah 11) — is not merely a call to fulfill an obligation, but an invitation to approach Jumu‘ah with mindfulness and sincere concern — to engage in worship with presence, and to demonstrate genuine care for your community and its well-being.
- When Allah says, “Leave off trade” (وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ) — (Surah Al-Jumuah, ayah 11) — it is not only about physically stopping business, but also about detaching the heart from worldly concerns during the khutbah and salah.

A Timeless Lesson

Allah reminds us of an incident when a trade caravan arrived in Madinah while the Prophet ﷺ was delivering the khutbah. People left him standing to attend to the goods — only twelve companions remained.

It was a time of hunger and high prices, yet Allah revealed verses reproaching that behavior.

We must ask ourselves:

If they left with their bodies, what of those who stay with their bodies but whose minds and hearts are elsewhere — distracted, restless, or absent? Does that make it acceptable?

Conclusion

Every Jumu'ah is a window to the Ultimate Gathering.

It is a weekly rehearsal for standing before Allah — shoulder to shoulder, hearts aligned, listening to His words and remembering our purpose.

Let each Friday remind us that a day will come when no one will be able to return, when every gathering will disperse except one — the gathering under Allah's mercy.

May our attendance today be a witness for us, not against us.

And may every Jumu'ah bring us closer to success on that Final Day of Assembly.