

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: The Place Where God Can Speak to All of Us

Knut Holdhus
December 2, 2024



The [Cheonwon Gung](#), one of the slides Dr. Michael Balcomb used to illustrate his sermon on Nov. 24, 2024

In a sermon in London, Dr. Michael Balcomb emphasizes that we are all invited to the entrance ceremony of Cheonwon Gung, "the place where God can speak to all of us"



Part 3 of extracts from a sermon titled "The Spirit and the Bride Say, 'Come!'", that Dr. Michael Balcomb, the President of the Europe and the Middle East Region of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), gave at the Sunday service at the River South branch in London, UK on 24th November 2024. Slightly edited.

See [part 1](#), [part 2](#)



Dr. Michael Balcomb Nov. 24, 2024

[...] Let's read it again,

"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!'

And let the one who hears say 'Come!'

Let the one who is thirsty come;

and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life." (Revelation 22:17)

I think the Spirit and the bride are saying at this particular time,

"Come here! Come to this special day, the opening of the [Cheonwon Gung](#) and the Cheonil sanctum, which to [True Mother](#) is the home of her 'Dad' and 'Mom', our Heavenly Parent."

It's not just another castle, another building that has to be opened in a ceremony, but it is a home for the spirit of our Heavenly Parent.

[...] After a guided tour of the [Cheonwon Gung](#), [Mother](#) invited us to have coffee and red bean cake, and she asked,

"So what do you think, Mike? Is it better than the palaces of Europe?"

You have to think quick, right, when you are asked that, because after all, some palaces in Europe are much bigger. But I said,

"[Mother](#), I think it's wonderful because it's built on the foundation of love."



[Mother Moon](#) with leaders of the [Family Federation](#) 6th September 2024 in [Gapyeong](#), South Korea. Dr. Michael Balcomb is 2nd from the left at the main table

I told [Mother](#),

"I've been to many castles and palaces in Europe, and quite often there's a dungeon in the basement."

If you go to most of the castles, there's a prison, but there in the [Cheonwon Gung](#), there is no prison. [...]

And [Mother](#) asked,

"So do you have any suggestions?"

I said,

"Yes, as a matter of fact, [Mother](#), I do. I think we should emphasise that this temple, this holy place, is where [God](#) can speak to all of his and her children. It's not just for [Unificationists](#), but for people of all faiths."

And as you know, [Mother](#)'s goal is that people come, and they're so overwhelmed by the experience that on the spot they decide,

"Yes, I want to be part of this movement to create a world of peace."



So that's our theme. This [See image to the right] is the front page of a booklet that we've made to introduce the [Cheonwon Gung](#) to everybody, because everybody is invited.

And as you've seen in this picture [See image below], this is how a night vigil prayer there will be. It won't be in a small prayer room, but it will be a pilgrimage up the mountain into the courtyard with candles and with music. It's going to be really glorious.

So come! Yes, really. We are inviting everybody to take this time to come [...] and be able to be part of the first pilgrimage. Of course, you can come later. It will be open all summer, and indeed for all eternity.

But at this moment, there's a unique possibility and opportunity to actually come. And I'm emphasising this to European members, because compared to those from South America, which is exactly on the other side of the world from Korea, or those from Africa, for whom getting a visa, even to enter Korea is pretty difficult.

There's really nothing stopping us, except, of course, the other things in life.

But I hope that we will recognise now, that this is really important, because if there's a marriage feast and the guests don't come, everything is ruined. The parents aren't happy, the bride and groom aren't happy.

[Mother](#) has poured out her heart and her spirit, and the day has finally come after 10 years of work.

Let us pray,

"Our loving, Heavenly Parent, it's sometimes hard for us to realise that your providence is moving forward. Because we can all see the chaos and disaster in our world and the suffering and misery that still continues thousands of years after Adam and Eve left the garden.



Prayer vigil at night at [Cheonwon Gung](#)

But we want to remind ourselves of the [teachings](#) of our [True Parents](#) and of Jesus, that the time will come, and has come, when all of this suffering will pass away.

The Book of Revelation says the former things will have passed away and a 'new Jerusalem' will appear.

And we're invited. We are invited, but we are not forced. Please allow us to consider deeply

this invitation, and how we and our family can respond in the best way. And not just us. We need to spread this message to others, to let them understand, 'Yes, you are invited, too. Everybody is invited.'

Loving Heavenly Parent, on this morning, the last Sunday of November, we want to reflect on how we'll use the coming four months and how we will make our even small contribution to this great Day of the Lord.

We offer our prayer together. [...]"

See [part 1](#), [part 2](#)

Related to where God can speak to all of us: [Essence of God](#)

More, related to where God can speak: [God and Human Beings](#)

Also related to where God can speak: [The Day When Heavenly Parent's Dream Comes True](#)

More, related to where God can speak: [Preparing Holy Temple for God and Becoming One](#)

More, related to where God can speak: ["We're Small, But Mustn't Forget That God Is Great"](#)

More, related to where God can speak: [2025 Dedication: Sanctum to Feel Holiness of God](#)

More, related to where God can speak: [Teachings Make Great Strides in New Version](#)

And more, related to where God can speak: [In a Nutshell](#)

Yet more, related to where God can speak: [Brief about the Teachings](#)

Still more, related to where God can speak: [The Mission of the Only Begotten Daughter](#)

Even more, related to where God can speak: [Gender-Balanced Understanding of God and Christ](#)

And yet more, related to where God can speak: [God as Our Heavenly Parent \(Father and Mother\)](#)

And still more, related to where God can speak: [History of God: From Yahweh to Father to Parent](#)

And even more, related to where God can speak: [Religious Truth as Progressive Revelation](#)

Also related to where God can speak: [Essential Motherly Part of Messianic Mission](#)

Also related to where God can speak: [The 3 Blessings and the Process to Fulfil Them](#)

Also related to where God can speak: [Unchanging Truth and Its Changing Expression](#)

Also related to where God can speak: [The Meaning of History from Viewpoint of God](#)

Also related to where God can speak: [Failure of Key Persons Related to Jesus](#)

Also related to where God can speak: [Amazing Parallels to Jesus and Holy Spirit](#)

Also related to where God can speak: [Unification Principles](#)

Also related to where God can speak: [The Kingdom of Heaven](#)

Also related to where God can speak to all of us: [True Love](#)



Not Ready For Greatest Invitation Of Them All?

• December 1, 2024 • Knut Holdhus



In his parables Jesus spoke about being ready 2,000 years ago. Now, Dr. Michael Balcomb delves into the vital question if you are not ready when the great day comes



Illustration 24th Nov. 2024. Screenshot

River South branch in London, UK on 24th November 2024. Slightly edited.



See [part 1](#), [part 3](#)

Jesus said,



Part 2 of extracts from a sermon titled "The Spirit and the Bride Say, 'Come!'", that Dr. Michael Balcomb, the President of the Europe and the Middle East Region of the *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification*, gave at the Sunday service at the

Share:     

- More Posts**
-  "The Place Where God Can Speak To All Of Us" December 2, 2024
 -  Invitation: The Spirit And The Bride Say, "Come!" November 30, 2024
 -  Japan: State Encroaching On Domain Of Faith November 28, 2024
 -  Mistrust Of Religion: State Persecuting Minority November 27, 2024
 -  "To Change World, Treat Each One As Child Of God" November 26, 2024
 -  New Laws Let Lawyers Aid Many To Pose As Victim November 25, 2024
 -  Mother Moon: How To Be A Filial Son Or Daughter November 23, 2024

Search 

Categories

"My kingdom is not of this world." (John 18:36)

But we know that actually it was supposed to be of this world, right? Jesus came to build the **Kingdom of Heaven** on the earth. And it was only the disinterest of the people of his time that forced the alternative path of the cross.



Dr. Michael Balcomb speaking 24th Nov. 2024. Photo: Screenshot from video recording by FFWPU

Jesus himself did not talk about the "marriage supper of the Lamb" in the Gospels. That Revelation comes later in the Book of Revelation [Editor's note: Revelation 19:6-9], but he did talk a lot about **marriages** and gave several illustrations of good and bad behaviour at a wedding.

How many people here have been to a wedding? I think you all have, right? How many of you have been here a wedding and been silently appalled by some of the guests?

[...] Weddings are meant to be happy, joyful occasions, and they are. But sometimes, people get out of hand, and they either say the wrong thing or do the wrong thing or drink too much. And what should have been a glorious celebration, can be a little spoiled by the behaviour of the guests – hopefully not by the behaviour of the bride and groom.

I just



Fecit homo caenam iustique venire, recusant. tunc complent mensas turba coacta. vs.
Parable of the wedding feast. Illustration: Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, Netherlands. **Public domain** image. Cropped

want to share with you two parables that Jesus spoke about, explaining about **marriage** feasts. And it's interesting that Jesus chose a **marriage** as the metaphor or illustration of what it's like to be invited to the **Kingdom of Heaven**. Jesus wanted people to think of it in terms they understood, right?

Almost everyone's been to a wedding, so Jesus used that as a sample of what it would be like. And there are two parables. They're almost the same, but they're a little bit different.

The first one is in the Gospel of Luke. I think we're familiar with it. It's Luke 14:16-24.

"Jesus replied, 'A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests.'"

You know this story.

"At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who'd been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'"

Here's that word again – come!

"But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'"

How lame is that, right? Nobody buys property without looking at it first.

"Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please, excuse me.'"

Just like that. He couldn't wait. And perhaps the strangest is,

"Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'"

What could possibly stop a young married couple from going to another wedding, right? The excuses are laughably bad; they're so weak. It's like almost not trying. And we used to laugh at that. Remember that song we used to sing, "I cannot come, I cannot come to the banquet." We used to laugh. It used to be a famous workshop song. [...]

Send us a message

First Name * Last Name

Email *

Email Address

Your Message *

Submit

The other parable – a bit more pointed – is in the Gospel of Matthew, and in this case, it really is a marriage supper. Just to remind you,

“The **kingdom of heaven** is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused.

Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’”

But they don't. In fact, not only do they not; they go off, one to his field, another to his business, and the rest actually seized the messengers and beat them up.



The messengers were beaten up. Image: Biblical illustration of Gospel of Luke. Distant Shores Media/Sweet Publishing. License: CC ASA 3.0 Unp

The king was infuriated, and the servants were sent out to invite other people, anybody, and even to force them to come in.

To give you a little bit of context, how it worked in Jesus' time with **marriages** and weddings. Usually, the bride and the groom would be introduced by their parents, and the parents would make the **marriage contract** and there would be a signing, a bit like our dedication ceremony [*Editor's note: engagement ceremony practiced in the Family Federation*].

And that might be the very first time that the bride and groom actually met each other. It might sound familiar for some of us here.

I actually witnessed this for myself live in Jerusalem about 20 years ago, because we were staying in a hotel that was popular with Orthodox Jewish families.

And on a Sunday, normally you'd see these nervous young people come in and meet each other for the first time, basically to agree, “We're going to get married.”

But then if they agreed and signed the contract, what would happen is that the bride would go back to her parents, and the bridegroom would go to get ready. It was not just to change his suit, but to get a house, to prepare everything so that he could welcome his new bride.



Marriage contract being signed by young Jewish couple. Illustration: Microsoft Designer Image Creator, desember 2024.

And of course, that would take time. It could take days, could take weeks, could take months. So there's this period of time when people are expecting the bridegroom, but nobody's quite sure when he'll come. That's why Jesus told other parables about people who got tired of waiting and let their oil run out. But that's not today.

This is the metaphor that Jesus used twice. There's a banquet. It's great. In fact, everyone needs that invitation. It's the hot ticket in town. [...]

You get the invitation, but then for whatever reason, you start to get distracted. You start thinking about other things that you feel would be more important, that you need to do.

And finally, almost unexpectedly, the great day comes, and you're not ready. And I put it to you that this is not just a cautionary tale for the Jews of Jesus' time, or for guests at a workshop 40 years ago, or even to Christians that **Mother** has asked us to reach out to right now.

But first of all, what about myself? Am I really ready for that invitation?

Am I ready to prioritise that day above everything else? When the Spirit says, "Come!", will I come?

As I mentioned, we're not just talking in spiritual or vague terms here. We're talking about a practical, real invitation that is coming soon, and to which you are invited again.

Continued in [part 3](#).

See [part 1](#), [part 3](#)

Featured image above: *Not ready*. Illustration: Microsoft Designer Image Creator, desember 2024.

Related to not ready: [Essence of God](#)

More, related to not ready: [God and Human Beings](#)

Also related to not ready: [The Day When Heavenly Parent's Dream Comes True](#)

More, related to not ready: [Preparing Holy Temple for God and Becoming One](#)

More, related to not ready: ["We're Small, But Mustn't Forget That God Is Great"](#)

More, related to not ready: [2025 Dedication: Sanctum to Feel Holiness of God](#)

More, related to not ready: [Teachings Make Great Strides in New Version](#)

And more, related to not ready: [In a Nutshell](#)

Yet more, related to not ready: [Brief about the Teachings](#)

Still more, related to not ready: [The Mission of the Only Begotten Daughter](#)

Even more, related to not ready: [Gender-Balanced Understanding of God and Christ](#)

And yet more, related to not ready: [God as Our Heavenly Parent \(Father and Mother\)](#)

And still more, related to not ready: [History of God: From Yahweh to Father to Parent](#)

And even more, related to not ready: [Religious Truth as Progressive Revelation](#)

Also related to not ready: [Essential Motherly Part of Messianic Mission](#)

Also related to not ready: [The 3 Blessings and the Process to Fulfil Them](#)

Also related to not ready: [Unchanging Truth and Its Changing Expression](#)

Also related to not ready: [The Meaning of History from Viewpoint of God](#)

Also related to not ready: [Failure of Key Persons Related to Jesus](#)

Also related to not ready: [Amazing Parallels to Jesus and Holy Spirit](#)

Also related to not ready: [Unification Principles](#)

Also related to not ready: [The Kingdom of Heaven](#)

Also related to not ready: [True Love](#)

« Previous Next »
Invitation: The Spirit And The... "The Place Where God Can Sp...



Follow us



I consent to have my website data submitted for analysis, always in a safe and secure manner.