

# Choosing the True Banquet— The Feast of Life or the Feast of Death

*Matthew 14:1-21*

## **Main Idea:**

Matthew 14 presents two contrasting banquets—one that leads to death (Herod's feast) and one that leads to life (Jesus' miraculous feeding). These feasts represent the fundamental antithesis between worship of the creature (self, power, indulgence, worldliness) and worship of the Creator (Christ, faith, obedience, trust in God's provision). Jesus, the new and greater Moses, calls us away from the false security of the old covenant and the world's banquet of death to the true and lasting feast of the kingdom.

---

## **I. Introduction**

A. Read Passage, Pray

B. Review

1. Pastor David looked at the contrast between the two banquets with two kings. One king chose to exercise murderous power to protect himself; the other chose compassion foreshadowing His sacrifice for sinners on the Cross.
2. This week, we are going to go deeper, and look at the nature of these two banquets in greater detail

## **II. Two Banquets: The Worship of the Creature vs. the Worship of the Creator (Matthew 14:1-21)**

### **A. Herod's Feast: The Banquet of Death (14:1-12)**

1. A feast of power, indulgence, and cruelty—Herod entertains the powerful, but it ends in murder.
2. The false security of worldliness—People will sell their souls to dine at the table of kings.
3. A kingdom built on the flesh and its desires—Herod's rule is oppressive, corrupt, and self-serving.

### **B. Jesus' Feast: The Banquet of Life (14:13-21)**

1. A feast of compassion and true provision—Jesus feeds the hungry in the wilderness.
2. The false perception of scarcity—The disciples think five loaves and two fish are not enough.
3. A kingdom built on faith and trust—Jesus provides more than enough for those who rely on Him.

**Key Contrast: Which banquet are you feeding at? The world offers power, pleasure, and indulgence, but it leads to death. Jesus offers humble provision, but it leads to life.**

## **III. The Exodus Motif: Choosing to Return to Egypt or Follow Jesus into the Wilderness**

### **A. The Parallel with Pharaoh and Moses**

1. Herod mirrors Pharaoh—Both rule over God's people and murder the righteous.

2. Jesus is the new Moses—Leading people into the wilderness of faith to receive true provision.

#### B. The People's Temptation to Prefer Egypt

1. **Exodus 16:3**—The Israelites longed for the “good food” of Egypt rather than trusting God's provision.

2. **Numbers 11:4-6**—They despised the manna, seeing it as unimpressive and insufficient.

**Key Parallel: The people in Jesus' day face the same choice—trust in Herod's world of power and feasting or trust in Jesus' wilderness provision.**

### **IV. The Death of John: The Powerlessness of the Old Covenant and the Need for the New**

#### A. John's Death: The End of the Old Order

1. John was the greatest under the Old Covenant (Matthew 11:11), yet he was powerless to bring salvation.

2. His death at the hands of Herod signals that the Old Covenant alone cannot deliver Israel.

3. All his disciples can do is carry his head

#### B. Jesus as the True Deliverer

1. Moses led the people out of Egypt, but he could not bring them into the Promised Land.

2. John prepared the way for the Messiah, but he could not establish the kingdom.

3. Only Jesus—the new Moses—can complete the work.

#### 4. Jesus' disciples carry the bread of life

**Key Truth: If even John the Baptist cannot bring true salvation, then no amount of religious obedience can save us. We must trust in Jesus alone.**

### **V. The Banquet of Life Looks Unimpressive—But It Leads to True Satisfaction**

#### **A. The Manna and the Loaves: God's Provision Often Looks Insufficient**

1. **Exodus 16:15**—The Israelites looked at the manna and said, “What is it?”

2. **Matthew 14:17**—The disciples looked at the five loaves and two fish and said, “This is not enough.”

a. God's provision never looks impressive at first, but it is always sufficient.

b. The world's banquet looks glorious, but its end is death.

#### **B. The Call to Faith: Do You Trust the Provision of Christ?**

1. The world says: "This is not enough!"

2. But Jesus takes what seems small and makes it abundant.

3. The cross itself looked like weakness—but it became the source of true life.

**Key Challenge: Are we trusting in what looks impressive (the world's feast), or in what truly satisfies (Christ's provision)?**

## **VI. Conclusion: Which Banquet Will You Choose?**

***A. Summary: The world offers a banquet of indulgence, power, and control—but it leads to death.***

Jesus offers a banquet of humility, faith, and provision—but it leads to eternal life.

The Israelites longed for Egypt, but those who trusted God received the Promised Land.

John's death shows that the old covenant can only take us so far—we need Jesus to complete the journey.

### ***B. Application***

***1. What banquet are you feeding at? Are you chasing power, success, indulgence, while rejecting humble faith in Christ?***

***2. Are you trusting God's provision? Do you believe that what God has given you is enough—or are you constantly longing for something else?***

***3. Will you follow Jesus into the wilderness? The Israelites struggled with trusting God—will you do the same, or will you embrace the provision of Christ?***