



**Chapter 14:1-21**

**Parallels of Power**

<sup>1</sup> When Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, heard about Jesus, <sup>2</sup> he said to his advisers, “This must be John the Baptist raised from the dead! That is why he can do such miracles.” <sup>3</sup> For Herod had arrested and imprisoned John as a favor to his wife Herodias (the former wife of Herod’s brother Philip).

<sup>4</sup> John had been telling Herod, “It is against God’s law for you to marry her.” <sup>5</sup> Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of a riot, because all the people believed John was a prophet. <sup>6</sup> But at a birthday party for Herod, Herodias’s daughter performed a dance that greatly pleased him, <sup>7</sup> so he promised with a vow to give her anything she wanted.

<sup>8</sup> At her mother's urging, the girl said, "I want the head of John the Baptist on a tray!" <sup>9</sup> Then the king regretted what he had said; but because of the vow he had made in front of his guests, he issued the necessary orders. <sup>10</sup> So John was beheaded in the prison, <sup>11</sup> and his head was brought on a tray and given to the girl, who took it to her mother.

**<sup>12</sup> Later, John's disciples came for his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus what had happened.**



<sup>7</sup> As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. "What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of wind?" <sup>8</sup> Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces.

<sup>9</sup> Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup> When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

<sup>15</sup> Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

<sup>16</sup> But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." <sup>17</sup> They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish."

<sup>18</sup> And he said, "Bring them here to me." <sup>19</sup> Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

<sup>20</sup> And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. <sup>21</sup> And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

<sup>10</sup> God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

<sup>11</sup> “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. <sup>12</sup> Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.



God's mighty  
**POWER**  
is modeled  
**THROUGH**  
**SELF-RESTRAINT**

God's mighty  
**POWER IS**  
**AMPLIFIED**  
**through**  
**COMPASSION**



<sup>21</sup> But Moses responded to the Lord, “There are 600,000 foot soldiers here with me, and yet you say, ‘I will give them meat for a whole month!’ <sup>22</sup> Even if we butchered all our flocks and herds, would that satisfy them? Even if we caught all the fish in the sea, would that be enough?” <sup>23</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, “Has my arm lost its power? Now you will see whether or not my word comes true!”

<sup>42</sup> One day a man from Baal-shalishah brought the man of God a sack of fresh grain and twenty loaves of barley bread made from the first grain of his harvest. Elisha said, “Give it to the people so they can eat.” <sup>43</sup> “What?” his servant exclaimed. “Feed a hundred people with only this?”

But Elisha repeated, “Give it to the people so they can eat, for this is what the Lord says: Everyone will eat, and there will even be some left over!” <sup>44</sup> And when they gave it to the people, there was plenty for all and some left over, just as the Lord had promised.

**<sup>20</sup> And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over.**



God's mighty  
**POWER**  
is unchanging and  
**TRUSTWORTHY**



the good news according to

**MATTHEW**