

The Murder of John the Baptist

Matthew 14	Mark 6	Luke 9
<p>¹ At that time, Herod the tetrarch heard the report concerning Jesus, ² and said to his servants, “This is John the Baptizer. He is risen from the dead. That is why these powers work in him.”</p>	<p>¹⁴ King Herod heard this, for his name had become known, and he said, “John the Baptizer has risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him.”</p>	<p>⁷ Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by him; and he was very perplexed, because it was said by some that John had risen from the dead,</p>
	<p>¹⁵ But others said, “He is Elijah.” Others said, “He is a prophet, or like one of the prophets.” ¹⁶ But Herod, when he heard this, said, “This is John, whom I beheaded. He has risen from the dead.”</p>	<p>⁸ and by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the old prophets had risen again.</p>
<p>³ For Herod had arrested John, and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife. ⁴ For John said to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.”</p>	<p>¹⁷ For Herod himself had sent out and arrested John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, for he had married her. ¹⁸ For John said to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.”</p>	
	<p>¹⁹ Herodias set herself against him, and desired to kill him, but she couldn’t,</p>	
<p>⁵ When he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet. ¹</p>	<p>²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. When he heard him, he did many things, and he heard him gladly.</p>	
<p>⁶ But when Herod’s birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced among them and pleased Herod.</p>	<p>²¹ Then a convenient day came, that Herod on his birthday made a supper for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief men of Galilee. ²² When the daughter of Herodias herself came in and danced, she pleased Herod and those sitting with him. [...]</p>	

¹ Matthew 14:5 and Mark 6:20 do not contradict each other by one saying Herod feared the crowd (Matthew) and the other that he was fascinated by John (Mark). These two things could easily be true at the same time. Herod wanted to keep the strange, wilderness prophet around for his own curiosity, but he also knew it could cause trouble among the people if he gave into his wife’s demands.

Matthew 14	Mark 6	Luke 9
<p>⁷Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she should ask.</p>	<p>²²[...] The king said to the young lady, "Ask me whatever you want, and I will give it to you." ²³He swore to her, "Whatever you shall ask of me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom."</p>	
<p>⁸She, being prompted by her mother, said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptizer."</p>	<p>²⁴She went out, and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" She said, "The head of John the Baptizer." ²⁵She came in immediately with haste to the king, and asked, "I want you to give me right now the head of John the Baptizer on a platter."</p>	
<p>⁹The king was grieved, but for the sake of his oaths and of those who sat at the table with him, he commanded it to be given,</p>	<p>²⁶The king was exceedingly sorry, but for the sake of his oaths, and of his dinner guests, he didn't wish to refuse her.</p>	
<p>¹⁰and he sent and beheaded John in the prison.</p>	<p>²⁷Immediately the king sent out a soldier of his guard, and commanded to bring John's head, and he went and beheaded him in the prison,</p>	
<p>¹¹His head was brought on a platter and given to the young lady; and she brought it to her mother.</p>	<p>²⁸and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the young lady; and the young lady gave it to her mother.</p>	
<p>¹²His disciples came, took the body, and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus.</p>	<p>²⁹When his disciples heard this, they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb.</p>	
		<p>⁹Herod said, "I beheaded John, but who is this about whom I hear such things?" He sought to see him.</p>