

Literary structure of Mark 6:14-29

A. Jesus' disciples/Herod beheads John:

a) **Herod heard/John raised:**¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him."

b) **Another prophet:**¹⁵But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."

a1) **Herod heard/John raised:**¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

B. Herodias's grudge:¹⁷For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her.¹⁸For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death.

C. Herod's respect for John: But she could not,²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

B¹. Herodias's opportunity:²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee.²²For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you."²³And he swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom."²⁴And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist."²⁵And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

A¹. Herod beheads John/John's disciples:²⁶And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her.²⁷And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison²⁸and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother.²⁹When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

An alternative structure for Mark 6:17-29

A. Herod sent and put John in prison/Herodias cannot get John:¹⁷For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her.¹⁸For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." / ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not,²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

B. Herod pleased/swore:²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee.²²For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. / And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will

give it to you." ²³And he swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom."

C. The request: ²⁴And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." ²⁵And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

B1. Herod sorry/oaths: ²⁶And the king was exceedingly sorry, / but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her.

A1. Herod sent and had John executed/Herodias gets John: ²⁷And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. / He went and beheaded him in the prison ²⁸and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.