

Christian Basis for Mediation

Part 1 of 2

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What We Will Learn

- City clerk in Ephesus
- Calmed and dispersed a mob
- By helping them understand the facts better
- King Solomon mediated dispute over a baby
- Commander Joab mediated
- “David vs King David” dispute over Absalom
- Christian basis for mediation
- Approach to mediation

Riot in Ephesus

The Incitement

- Silver smith Demetrius
 - Artemis shrine maker
 - Generated a lot of business
- Called together craftsmen + related workers
- Accused Paul of destroying their trade
- By discrediting Artemis
- Acts 19:24–27

Acts 19 (NIV)

24 A silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought in a lot of business for the craftsmen there.

25 He called them together, along with the workers in related trades, and said: “You know, my friends, that we receive a good income from this business.

Acts 19 (NIV)

26 And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in practically the whole province of Asia. He says that gods made by human hands are no gods at all.

Acts 19 (NIV)

27 There is danger not only that our trade will lose its good name, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be discredited; and the goddess herself, who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and the world, will be robbed of her divine majesty.”

Riot in Ephesus

Spread of Mob Action

- Riot started at the craftsmen gathering
- Spread through the whole city
- Two companion's of Paul arrested
- Large crowd gathered at the theater
- Most did not know why they gathered
- Jews tried but failed to take advantage
- Acts 19:28–34

Acts 19 (NIV)

28 When they heard this, they were furious and began shouting: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

29 Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia, and all of them rushed into the theater together.

Acts 19 (NIV)

30 Paul wanted to appear before the crowd, but the disciples would not let him.

31 Even some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, sent him a message begging him not to venture into the theater.

Acts 19 (NIV)

32 The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there.

33 The Jews in the crowd pushed Alexander to the front, and they shouted instructions to him. He motioned for silence in order to make a defense before the people.

Acts 19 (NIV)

34 But when they realized he was a Jew, they all shouted in unison for about two hours: “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

Successful Mediation by City Clerk

- Artemis and its relationship with Ephesus
- Are recognized worldwide
- Ephesians did not need to defend Artemis
- The men arrested have done nothing wrong
- If Demetrius and craftsmen have a case
- Courts and proconsuls are available
- Gathering could violate rioting rules
- Acts 19:35–41

Acts 19 (NIV)

35 The city clerk quieted the crowd and said: “Fellow Ephesians, doesn’t all the world know that the city of Ephesus is the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis and of her image, which fell from heaven?”

36 Therefore, since these facts are undeniable, you ought to calm down and not do anything rash.

Acts 19 (NIV)

37 You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed temples nor blasphemed our goddess.

38 If, then, Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a grievance against anybody, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. They can press charges.

Acts 19 (NIV)

39 If there is anything further you want to bring up, it must be settled in a legal assembly.

40 As it is, we are in danger of being charged with rioting because of what happened today. In that case we would not be able to account for this commotion, since there is no reason for it.”

Acts 19 (NIV)

41 After he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

Understanding City Clerk Mediation

- Assessed the situation: determined facts
 - People gathered to protect their god Artemis
 - Incited by Demetrius and other craftsmen
 - They have no need to defend their god
 - Or Demetrius and his people
 - Arrested two people without cause
 - Could be in violation of anti-riot law
- Used the facts to defuse the mob

Mediation

- Intervene in a dispute to make peace
- Motivated by sincere desire
- To guide disputant to peaceful understanding
- Christ encourages us to seek peace

Matthew 5 (NIV)

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Children of God

- Led by the Spirit of God [Romans 8:14]
- Manifestation of Spirit of God
 - Love, joy, peace, forbearance (tolerance)
 - Kindness, goodness, faithfulness
 - Gentleness and self-control
- Galatians 5:22–23
- James 3:17–18

Galatians 5 (NIV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

James 3 (NIV)

17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Christian Mediation

- Motivated by sincere desire for peace
- Guided by the Holy Spirit
- Attitude to disputant conveys image of God
 - Love, joy, peace, forbearance (tolerance)
 - Kindness, goodness, faithfulness
 - Gentleness and self-control
- Seeks to guide disputant to clear and peaceful understanding

Approach to Christian Mediation

- Assess situation
- Determine the facts
- Use the facts
- To guide disputant
- To clear and peaceful understanding