

Christian Basis for Mediation

Part 2 of 2

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Solomon Mediation

- Mediation and judgment
- Between two prostitutes
- Regarding a living baby
- And a dead baby

Solomon's Mediation: The Case

- Two prostitutes appeared before Solomon
- Disputed who was mother of a baby
- Each had a baby but one died
- Each claimed the living baby was hers
- No other witness
- 1 Kings 3:16–22

1 Kings 3 (NIV)

16 Now two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him.

17 One of them said, “Pardon me, my lord. This woman and I live in the same house, and I had a baby while she was there with me.

18 The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us.

1 Kings 3 (NIV)

19 “During the night this woman’s son died because she lay on him.

20 So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast.

1 Kings 3 (NIV)

21 The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne.”

22 The other woman said, “No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours.”

But the first one insisted, “No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine.”

And so they argued before the king.

Solomon's Mediation

Finding the Facts

- Solomon determined mother of living baby
- By tricking the women
- To reveal who has true love for the baby
- Mother's willing to sacrifice parenthood
- To save the baby
- Identified her as the real mother
- 1 Kings 3:23–26

1 Kings 3 (NIV)

23 The king said, “This one says, ‘My son is alive and your son is dead,’ while that one says, ‘No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.’”

24 Then the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So they brought a sword for the king.

25 He then gave an order: “Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other.”

1 Kings 3 (NIV)

26 The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out of love for her son and said to the king, “Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don’t kill him!”

But the other said, “Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!”

Solomon's Mediation

The Ruling

- Other woman's support for killing the baby
- Gave her away as "impostor mother"
- Solomon declared the first woman
- Mother of the living baby
- Ordered living baby be given to his mother
- 1 Kings 3:27–28
- Isaiah 49:15

1 Kings 3 (NIV)

27 Then the king gave his ruling: “Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother.”

28 When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.

Isaiah 49 (NIV)

15 “Can a mother forget the baby at her breast

and have no compassion on the child she has borne?

Though she may forget,
I will not forget you!

Mediation by Joab

Case of “David vs King David”

- David yearned to see son Absalom
- But reluctant to lift his banishment
- Absalom had fled three years earlier
- For killing his senior brother Amnon
- Who raped his sister Tamar
- 2 Samuel 13:1–39

[Not read in session]

Mediation by Joab

Facts of “David vs King David”

- King David’s son Absalom away for 3 years
- On banishment
- David longed to see Absalom
 - Needed to end the banishment
 - Did not
 - Maybe felt banishment should continue
- Joab used the facts to setup for mediation

Mediation by Joab

Making the Case to King David

- Wise woman hired by Joab
- Appealed to King David
- To save life of her only remaining son
- That killed his brother
- David pledged to save her son
- Woman asked if he would apply the same principle to end banishment of Absalom
- 2 Samuel 14:1–17 [11–14 read in session]

2 Samuel 14 (NIV)

11 She said, “Then let the king invoke the Lord his God to prevent the avenger of blood from adding to the destruction, so that my son will not be destroyed.”

“As surely as the Lord lives,” he said, “not one hair of your son’s head will fall to the ground.”

12 Then the woman said, “Let your servant speak a word to my lord the king.”

“Speak,” he replied.

2 Samuel 14 (NIV)

13 The woman said, “Why then have you devised a thing like this against the people of God? When the king says this, does he not convict himself, for the king has not brought back his banished son?”

14 Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But that is not what God desires; rather, he devises ways so that a banished person does not remain banished from him.

Joab's Approach to Mediation

"David vs King David"

- David longed for his son
- But was not ready to end banishment
- Joab devised a way to convince David
- Time was right to end the banishment
- King David accepted
- Authorized Joab to bring Absalom back
- 2 Samuel 14:18–24 [Not read in session]

What We Learned

Christian Basis for Mediation

- Motivated by sincere desire to make 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 each disputant to clear and peaceful understanding

What We Learned cont'd

Approach to Christian Mediation

- Assess situation to determine the facts
- Use the facts
 - Modify understanding as necessary
 - Identify give and take options
 - Define potential consequences
- To guide each disputant
- To clear and peaceful understanding