

KIRBSTONES

ALONG THE NARROW WAY

curb-stone (kürb'stön') - *noun* - one of the stones or a range of stones forming a curb, as along a sidewalk or roadway. Historically, the curbstones were placed vertically along the edges of the roadbed and the paving material was backfilled against the row of curbstones. The curbstones served ⁽¹⁾to hold the material in the roadbed, ⁽²⁾to prevent the scattering of the material along the edges, and ⁽³⁾to define the road itself from all the adjoining areas.

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT.
¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT." - MATTHEW 7:13-14 - NIV

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We must temper the act of our speaking up with the discernment of knowing *why*, *when*, and *how* we need to speak up. As *creatures of God*, we are to discern the *why*, the *when*, and the *how* through our intentional work of deepening our relationships with him. This maturation comes to fruition only through our *selfless* and *unwavering* love of Jesus, as we place him at the center of everything in our lives.

Unfortunately, much of the time today persons with the *infused truth* of the authority of God's Word sit on the sidelines for fear of offending someone, who might view the world, its people, and the Word of God differently, or *not at all*. I encounter folks—*outraged by this or by that*—but they fail to speak out. They fail to take action. They fail to speak the truth...*in love!*

There are biblical examples strewn from Genesis to Revelation of persons, both men and women, who stepped out of their comfort zones, and these people spoke the truth to a friend, to a ruler, or to God. They discerned that it was their time to speak up, to negotiate, or to simply state the facts.

Joseph knew that for the good of his family—*because of severe famine in their homeland*—he must speak to Pharaoh immediately to request that he allow his family join him in Egypt. Joseph's discernment, as to *why*, *when*, and *how* to speak to Pharaoh, was made clear by God. Joseph spoke words of truth to Pharaoh, who honored his request. Joseph stepped out in faith!

³¹ Then Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and speak to Pharaoh and will say to him, 'My brothers and my father's household, who were living in the land of Canaan, have come to me. ³² The men are shepherds; they tend livestock, and they have brought along their flocks and herds and everything they own.'" Genesis 46:31-32—NIV

14 "...if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish.

And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14—NIV

The LORD commanded Moses to speak to Pharaoh on behalf of himself for his people, so Moses could lead them out of their Egyptian bondage. It did not go well. Pharaoh intensified his grip on the people. Moses spoke God's Word.

²³ "Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people, and you have not rescued your people at all."
Exodus 5:23—NIV

Queen Esther, not known as a Jew by the king, risked everything to save her people from total annihilation. Even though she had found favor with the king, she took a chance by entering his court to ask this favor for God's people.

God went before her and prepared her way *and* the heart of the king. This was Esther's time. She had come to royal position for such a time as this. Her story is one of tremendous faith in God.

Isaiah teaches that we cannot seek truth from any source other than God. God will *not* tolerate what is *not* truth.

²⁰ To the law and to the testimony!
If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn.
Isaiah 8:20—NIV

2 Timothy teaches that God will tolerate nothing but sound doctrine.

³ For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.
2 Timothy 4:3—NIV

We may discern the truth, and we may know the *why*, the *when*, and the *how*. We know that speaking the truth, while it may bring trouble, God's Word will prevail. We cannot remain silent!

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