A MAN / WOMAN OF TRUTH EX. 23:1-9

There are those moments...those situations...those circumstances where Christians must stand for the truth.

Davy Crockett faced two such crises:

1st cost him his seat in the US House of Representatives

2nd cost him his life

I believed it was a wicked, unjust measure.... I voted against this Indian bill, and my conscience yet tells me that I gave a good honest vote, and one that I believe will not make me ashamed in the day of judgement.

—David Crockett, A Narrative of the Life of David Crockett

Qualities of a person / individual of truth:

1. A witness to the truth!

Exodus 23:1 Thou shalt **not** raise a false report: put **not** thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

<u>Romans 1:9</u> For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

<u>Romans 3:4</u> God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

Romans 9:1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

2. Truth and not the mob

Exodus 23:2 Thou shalt <u>not</u> follow a multitude to do evil; <u>neither</u> shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:

<u>Deuteronomy 1:17</u> Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; **for the judgment is God's:** and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.

3. Truth and <u>not</u> poverty **or** wealth

Exodus 23:3 Neither shalt thou countenance a poor man in his cause.

Exodus 23:6 Thou shalt **not** wrest the judgment of thy poor *in his cause*.

<u>Leviticus 19:15</u> Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: **thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty**: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.

<u>Deuteronomy 1:17</u> Ye shall <u>not</u> respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.

<u>Deuteronomy 16:19</u> Thou shalt <u>not</u> wrest judgment; thou shalt <u>not</u> respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

<u>Deuteronomy 27:19</u> Cursed be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, Amen.

All must be tr the same

All under the

All must do

All penalized e & f

4. Truth and <u>not</u> friendship / relationships

Exodus 23:4 If thou meet thine enemy's ox or his ass going astray, thou shalt surely bring it back to him again. Exodus 23:5 If thou see the ass of him that hateth thee lying under his burden, and wouldest forbear to help him, thou shalt surely help with him.

I'm a friend to my friends I'm an enemy to my enemies

Most of us probably won't go that far Friend → friends
Enemy → neutral

What does the text tell us?

Act as a friend or do what a friend would do.

5. Truth and nothing but the truth

Exodus 23:7 Keep thee far from a false matter; \underline{and} the innocent and righteous slay thou not: \underline{for} I will not justify the wicked.

Leviticus 19:11 Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.

<u>Deuteronomy 27:25</u> Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person. And all the people shall say, Amen.

<u>Proverbs 17:15</u> He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, Even they both are abomination to the LORD.

6. Truth and not bribes / advantage

Exodus 23:8 And thou shalt take \underline{no} gift: \underline{for} the gift blindeth the wise, \underline{and} perverteth the words of the righteous.

<u>Deuteronomy 10:17</u> <u>For</u> the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, **which regardeth not persons**, <u>nor</u> taketh reward:

<u>Deuteronomy 16:19</u> Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, <u>neither</u> take a gift: <u>for</u> a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

<u>Deuteronomy 27:25</u> Cursed be he that taketh reward to slay an innocent person. And all the people shall say, Amen.

<u>1 Samuel 8:3</u> And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment.

<u>1 Samuel 12:3</u> Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you. <u>1 Samuel 12:4</u> And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand. <u>1 Samuel 12:5</u> And he said unto them, The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand. And they answered, He is witness.

Jay Wagner:

Trial in Minneapolis:

Proverbs 15:27 He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; But he that hateth gifts shall live.

Proverbs 17:8 A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: Whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth.

Proverbs 17:23 A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom To pervert the ways of judgment.

Proverbs 19:6 Many will intreat the favour of the prince: And every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts.

Proverbs 29:4 The king by judgment establisheth the land: But he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.

7. Truth and most certainly not...!!!

This would include:

- Skin color
- > Ethnicity
- ➤ Language group
- > People group

And any other way we divide people up

Exodus 23:9 Also thou shalt **not** oppress a stranger: **for** ye know the heart of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Exodus 22:21 Thou shalt **neither** vex a stranger, **nor** oppress him: **for** ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

<u>Deuteronomy 10:19</u> Love ye therefore the stranger: <u>for</u> ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

<u>Deuteronomy 24:17</u> Thou shalt <u>not</u> pervert the judgment of the stranger, nor of the fatherless; nor take a widow's raiment to pledge:

<u>Deuteronomy 24:18</u> But thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt, and the LORD thy God redeemed thee thence: therefore I command thee to do this thing.

<u>Deuteronomy 27:19</u> Cursed be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, Amen.