



# L.E.A.N. Letter

## ~The Soul-jour Series~ "Soul-jour...Be Bold and Stand up!" ©

**Soul-jour:** A soul on a journey- an enlisted disciple engaged in fulfilling one's duties while serving their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### (NOT) BEING BOLD IN JESUS' NAME? IT'S TIME FOR SOME PERSPECTIVE...

*Soul-jours*, are you boldly standing in Jesus name? Does this mean that you are screaming the Gospels from the street corner or picketing your beliefs on signs around town? No, not unless Jesus has led you to do so. Being bold is (not) about having hostility towards others when standing in Truth, it's simply being firm (and consistent) in your love for Jesus, and belief in His name, without hesitation or concern for what others think...no matter the cost. However, your firm stance must also be coupled with loving others as yourself while doing so, hence the Greatest Commandment (1 John 3:23).

In an effort to keep things in perspective, there are *Soul-jours* overseas who are physically being persecuted, beaten, tormented, imprisoned, and killed for the mere sight or symbol of being a follower of Jesus Christ. *Soul-jours*, for those of you who live in countries where you are presented with endless freedoms (especially freedom of speech and self-expression), have you lost touch with the realities in which you have been blessed to live? Have you grown scared or too comfortable to voice your love for your Savior, Jesus Christ? Should you be a *Soul-jour* who lives in a place where you can express yourself freely in Jesus, then remember, you will likely only receive verbal backlash and persecution...not (physical) death! On a more positive and promising note, wouldn't your witness be worth the discomfort of persecution should this bring others to come to know Jesus? Wouldn't you want to be the effective instrument CHOSEN to be used in another person's salvation? There is no greater service! So, with that said, what is keeping you from being bold in Jesus...the very duty in which you are charged to live (Acts 4:29)?

*Soul-jours*, is there is a lack of clarity as to whom you have given your life to serve, and the sacrifices that you have chosen to make? As mentioned, there are fellow *Soul-jours*, today, and at this very moment, losing their lives trying to find just an ounce of the freedoms that you possess; the freedoms to just love Jesus openly and/or discreetly. When it comes to being bold for Jesus, and others asking "why?", your freedom allows you to simply (yet confidently) say "because I can"! So what are you so afraid of when it comes to standing up for your love and devotion to Jesus Christ? This is the very essence of your existence!

*Soul-jours*, for those of you who are concerned about standing for Jesus when it comes to your professional life, and the possibility of losing your job, just keep in mind who gave you that job, and who is really providing for your needs and the needs of your family. Not to mention, since Jesus provided the first job, you will certainly be provided another means to make a living since He promises to care for those who are His (Matthew 6:25-34). Also, could there be any better resume builder to say that you lost a job because of your love for Jesus Christ? Like the early disciples who (repeatedly) suffered immense persecution, they considered it a great honor to be flogged, beaten, and mistreated simply for the name of Jesus (Acts 5:40-41). Again, this example serves as another eye-opening reminder for the disciples/ *Soul-jours* of today's times.

Jesus has given us the perfect parable of physical marriage to better understand our "marriage" to Him in the Spirit. What we never do with our loved ones, we should never consider doing to Jesus. For example, would you keep silent or shy away from someone asking about your spouse, whom you love? If not, then why would you do this, in any situation, when it comes to your spiritual spouse, Jesus?

*Soul-jours*, be cautious that you do not disown Jesus in any scenario. Heed the Lord's warning...if you disown Him, He will disown you, and if you are ashamed of Him, He will be ashamed of you (Luke 12:8-9). Jesus is looking for those who will publicly acknowledge Him before others. In return, He will do the same for you before the angels of God (Luke 12:8). Remember, unlike man's definition of sin, which is typically defined by one's actions, Jesus' definition of sin is defined by one's thoughts (Matthew 5:27-30). Therefore, disowning or being ashamed of Jesus is defined differently by HIM as well!

There are many *Soul-jours* who are making a difference in Jesus' name, but there is a need for more unity within the body of Christ, and more workers as the end times approaches! As the darkness in this world increases, the demand for the Holy light of Jesus increases as well. So, stay in a place of (daily) examination to avoid falling victim to (controllable) regret that you may one day have for not giving Jesus your whole heart and service.

*Soul-jours*, challenge yourself, and jump forward to the day you stand before Jesus as you give answer to EVERY word and deed during your time on earth (Matthew 12:36 and 2 Corinthians 5:10). Do you stand with confidence that you gave Him your ALL, or does your head hang with regret that you could have loved, served, and obeyed Him better? You have but one life, and one opportunity, to step up to the plate for Jesus. So, *Soul-jours*, take action today, while you still have the opportunity, and be the bold warrior Jesus is calling you to be! Remember, life is a series of moments (and opportunities) that you can either choose to capture, or choose to let pass you

### SO CHOOSE WISELY!

~ These inspired words are intended to strengthen the body of Christ so that we can eliminate "obesity" of our spirit (unnecessary confusion and distraction), and to set ourselves apart from the world so that we can stand out as the mighty warriors we are called to be in Jesus' name! (These inspired messages/teachings are never to substitute the pure Word of God found in The Holy Bible.) ~

May you be blessed, and may you "Live L.E.A.N. (Loving Everyone As Neighbors)...Live Long!"

~Scripture passages are cited using the NIV Holy Bible.~