



L.E.A.N. Letter

~The Soul-jour Series~

"The Life Of A Soul-jour: Duty" (Part 1 of 4) ©

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

DUTY

Duty: obligatory tasks, conduct, service, or functions that arise from one's position.

Amongst the several duties a Soul-jour is expected to fulfill, there will never be any duty, in which to honor the Lord, more important than fulfilling The Greatest Commandment. **"And this is his command: to believe in the NAME of His son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as He commanded us"** (1 John 3: 23). We are to love others as ourselves (without exception).

A Soul-jour must also seek to be in the Lord's will by not conforming to the patterns of the world (**Romans 12:2**). Worldly ways can lead to spiritual traps set by the enemy, which can lead to mediocrity, a loss of power, and a greater likelihood of diverging from your destined path. Other Soul-jour duties include (but not limited to):

- ♦ Understanding that when you follow Jesus, you will not be able to (and should not want to) understand your own way.
 - * **Note:** "A person's steps are directed by the Lord. How then can anyone understand their own way?" (**Proverbs 20:24**). Therefore, if you understand your own way, then your steps are not directed by the Lord.
- ♦ Pushing yourself to not grow complacent, which could lead to losing your saltiness (**Mathew 5:13**).
- ♦ (Not) swearing-not by heaven or by earth or by anything else.
 - * **Note:** Saying "yes" or "no" will suffice; anything beyond this comes from the evil one (**Mathew 5:37**).
- ♦ Loving your enemies and praying for those who persecute you (**Mathew 5:44**).
- ♦ Forgiving others so that you, too, may be forgiven (**Mathew 6:14**).
- ♦ Fasting when called to do so (**Mathew 6:16**).
- ♦ Giving to those who ask, and not turning away from those who want to borrow from you (**Mathew 5:42**); Giving especially to brothers and sisters in Christ (**1 John 3:17**).
 - * **Note(s):** "Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need" (**2 Corinthians 8:13-14**).
 - * Generosity is encouraged. "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (**2 Corinthians 9:7**).
 - * Seek to give not based on the requests of man, but by the leading of the Holy Spirit. Also, be aware of not giving beyond your means (i.e. giving away your "oil"-**Mathew 25:8-9**). Hence, always pray before giving. Giving according to the Lord's will allows you to remain in a place of peace.
 - * "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (**Acts 20:35**).
 - * Avoid giving by means of public display. Your Father will reward you for *not* doing this (**Mathew 6:2-4**).
 - * Early believers would go as far as selling property and possessions to give to anyone who had need (**Acts 2:44**).
- ♦ Asking, seeking, and knocking...and the door will be opened to you (**Mathew 7:8**).
- ♦ Keeping watch of false prophets (**Mathew 7:15**).
 - * **Note:** "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit" (**Mathew 7:18**).
- ♦ Ensuring that you not only know Jesus, but that Jesus knows you (**Mathew 7:23**).
 - * **Note:** Ensuring that Jesus knows you is confirmed through the (2) steps of salvation (**Romans 10:9**).
- ♦ Praying for more workers for the Kingdom of Heaven (**Mathew 9:38**).
- ♦ Creating a nurturing environment that supports your transformation in Jesus.
 - * **Note:** Rebuking spirits (frequently) is necessary in order to restore peace and balance (**Mathew 10:1 and Mark 16:17**). Living the Truth that Jesus did not come to bring peace, but a sword. He came to separate His from the rest of the world (**Mathew 10:34**).

(Please read on...)

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



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- ♦ Recognizing that "a man's enemies will be the members of his own household" (**Matthew 10:36**).
- ♦ Seeking worthiness to follow Jesus by not loving any member of your family more than you love Him (**Matthew 10:37**).
 - * Note(s): Whoever does not take up their cross and follow Jesus is not worthy of Him (**Matthew 10:38**).
 - * Being counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name (**Acts 5:41**).
 - * Living a life worthy of the calling you have received (**Ephesians 4:1**).
 - * Conducting yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ (**Philippians 1:27**).
 - * Continually asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way (**Colossians 1:10**).
- ♦ Losing your life for the sake of finding it (**Matthew 10:39**).
- ♦ Welcoming a prophet, which will lead to receiving a prophet's reward; welcoming a righteous person, which will lead to receiving a righteous person's reward (**Matthew 10:41**).
- ♦ (Not) blaspheming against the Holy Spirit, which is the unforgivable sin (**Matthew 12:31-2**).
- ♦ Understanding that there is no honor in your home town or in your own home.
 - * Note(s): "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home" (**Matthew 13:57**).
 - * Regardless of your spiritual gifting, if Jesus was not honored in his own town or home, then His disciples will not be either.
- ♦ Honoring your father and mother (without nullifying the Word of God because of tradition) (**Matthew 15:4-6**).
- ♦ Seeking to have the heart of a child. You will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven unless you become like a little child (**Matthew 18:3**).
- ♦ (Not) causing others to stumble (**Matthew 18:7**).
- ♦ Gathering with two or more believers to ensure the Spirit of Jesus is present (**Matthew 18:20**).
- ♦ Having a servant's heart..."So the last will be first, and the first will be last" (**Matthew 20:16**).
- ♦ (Not) being deceived or alarmed while witnessing the destruction of the world (**Matthew 24:4-8**).
- ♦ Being ready (always) for the Lord's return (**Matthew 24:44**).
- ♦ Praying that you will not fall into temptation (**Matthew 26:41**).
- ♦ Recognizing that Jesus Christ is presently in authority...not God, the Father (**Matthew 28:18**).
 - * Note: This realization should encourage the greater importance of having a close and intimate relationship with Jesus.
- ♦ Making disciples of all nations; baptizing; teaching the disciples to obey the Word of God (**Matthew 28:19-20**).
- ♦ Using parables when teaching others (**Mark 4:33-34**)... there is no greater way to teach than how Jesus taught.
- ♦ Avoiding (human) traditions in order to remain in the will of the Lord (**Mark 7:9**).
- ♦ Feeling blessed when people hate you, exclude you, insult you, and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Man...great is your reward (**Luke 6:22-23**).
- ♦ Doing good to those who hate you (**Luke 6:27**).
- ♦ (Not) judging others to avoid being judged yourself (**Luke 6:37**).
 - * Note: "Therefore, let us stop passing judgement on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister" (**Romans 14:13**).
- ♦ Giving so that it will be given to you (**Luke 6:38**).
- ♦ Persevering which leads to producing a crop (**Luke 8:15**).
- ♦ Proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere (**Luke 9:6**).
 - * Note: Successful healing requires strong faith by the one seeking healing (**Mark 5:34**), and by the healer.

~ 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!"

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