

LIVE SIMPLY

A recent news story reported that Mr. T , the actor who played on the A team television show many years ago and was noted for his many gold chains around his neck, was being interviewed about a new show. He was not wearing his chains and a reporter questioned him. Mr. T said..that I am a spiritual man and I have been working among the Hurricane Katrina victims. I don't think God would want me wearing all those while so many have lost everything.

His insight should give us all pause as to what we may be doing that is an affront to God. Do we engage in elaborate and lavish lifestyle practices while billions in the world lack daily sustenance? As Christians, we are called to care about that issue, you know. The Scripture says we work so that we may have something to share with others. We are given warnings about affluence and our attitude toward money.

Buying goods and services certainly keeps our economy strong and creates jobs so that others can work and support their families. We want to provide for our own families well and enjoy life. But as Christians, we must prioritize our spending so that we are able to help the needy and spread the gospel. Do we buy more than we really need or demand high-priced luxury items to satisfy our desires? How can we justify allocating so little in our budgets for the Lord's work, while we pile up debt for items we could certainly live without?

It is particularly sickening to see big-time evangelists speak of caring for the poor and evangelizing the world, when back home they have limos, several mansions, and designer clothes. Churches should also examine their spending. Are we guilty of spending millions on local buildings and staff in a community where everyone has heard the gospel, and giving little to reach the over 2 billion who don't know who Jesus is?

The small percentage (10-12%) most churches allocate for missions seems quite out of balance given the needs of the world, we have been called to saved.

Mother Teresa had a saying that all of us should heed- "Live simply, so that others might simply live." We might add a corollary for churches - "Operate simply, so that others might simply hear."