

YOUR EXOTIC LIFE

Proverbs 13:7 ... "There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; and one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches."

Some men enjoy owning and driving exotic cars, such as Ferraris and Maserati's. Those cars are built to be driven fast and hard. I have seen Mustangs, BMWs and other semi-exotic cars in Gensan. They are also built for speed and luxury. But their owners cannot drive them fast because of heavy traffic and bad roads. Fancy cars are also just as subject to being hit by trikes and motorcycles as cheap cars. All of my vehicles have dings and scratches from other people running into me. Some women enjoy owning and wearing very fine designer dresses. But there are few places here in which they can wear them.

When it comes right down to it, many people who can afford to buy expensive cars, clothes, and jewelry do so to flaunt their status. They draw attention to themselves and mock – either intentionally or unintentionally – those who cannot compete with them. Even if it is not your intention to compete with others, you cannot stop them from feeling dejected by their inability to compete with you.

You were created by God for a purpose, and the design of your life is suitable for the environment into which you were born and live. I was born into a poor farming family. That is the environment in which God considers me, in the final chapter of my life, to be most suitable in which to minister to him. And that is the environment for which I have adjusted my lifestyle. My life is not exotic, and I avoid the trappings of an exotic lifestyle so that my ministry is attuned to the people I live among.

If you are planning your life in such a way that you hope to escape the environment in which you were born, you may be spoiling God's plan for you. It is no accident that you were born to a poor family, lived your childhood in a bamboo hut, and had to scrounge for every meal you consumed. It is no accident that your experience is that of the poorest of the poor, or that you were raised in a family that struggled for every Peso they earned. Who is more equipped to minister to people like yourself, than you?

I hope that you do accomplish things in your life that make you more comfortable and better skilled. I hope you obtain a good education and find a good job. But I also hope you will not forget your beginnings and seek God's will for your life. You were created for the purpose of ministering to others. Those who will listen to you most eagerly, are those who grew up like you. They will not listen to an exotic version of yourself. If you desire great riches, please understand that it may not be in the form of money or cars or fine clothes or jewelry with which God will bless you. In God's kingdom, great riches are your time, your relationship with him, brothers and sisters in Christ, and your future in his presence.

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