

FEED THE HUNGRY

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How can we live out Christ's command to feed the hungry, given the complexities of today's world?

Right or wrong, we usually look to our governments, the United Nations, relief organizations, social services, welfare, and other such agencies to do this for us. Given the scope and complexity of poverty and hunger in the world, the tendency is to look over our shoulders, to something massive, to some big government or agency, to feed the hungry. We tend to feel too small and individually over-powered in the face of hunger's enormity.

This can be a rationalization, an abdication, a way of escaping Jesus' command. Ultimately, we cannot use the excuse that things are too complicated, that we are too small and powerless, and that only huge organizations can do anything for the hungry.

However, the call to feed the hungry is uncompromising and eminently personal. Each of us is called upon personally to do something real and this must be something beyond the normal corporate things we are involved in, paying taxes and giving charity monies to governments and big agencies to enable them to do this for us. We must do something ourselves.

For Mother Teresa, Jesus' command was simple and clear. Each of us should personally, beyond government and other agencies, reach out concretely and touch some poor person or persons. There should be times when we are, literally, taking food to hungry people, working in soup kitchens, giving aid to individual street people, and having a poor person eat at our table.

This approach is individual, personal, and concrete. Each poor person has a face, and one should not, at least not all the time, ask questions regarding where this person will eat tomorrow or what social problems are causing this hunger.

The demand that we feed the hungry challenges us precisely to reach out beyond ideologies and social theories and irrespective of social structures, like the Good Samaritan, person-to-person, take food to the hungry

