

Security Briefs Episode 9

Risk Myth Busters Part 2

In our last episode we discussed what “risk myths” were and where the concept came from. But to summarize, a risk myth is something that someone may tell us, or that we may tell ourselves in a moment of high risk that is unhelpful, untrue, and potentially damaging even though it seems like it may be Scriptural. For more details, check out Anna Hampton’s book *Facing Danger 2nd Edition* by following the QR code on the screen or [following this link](#).

Let’s look at a few more risk myths and why we consider them myths.

Risk Myth #2

The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.

You can look up the background and origin of this quote on your own. But it is stated so often by well-meaning Jesus followers, that it has almost taken on the weight of Scripture. It makes it seem as though martyrdom is something that all believers should strive for.

I have heard many young missionaries say, “I’m willing to die for Jesus!” And it’s a commendable attitude. But we should probably try to live for Jesus instead. Scripture has many examples of when martyrdom was not only not pursued, but scrupulously avoided. Even as there are also examples of those who have willingly suffered and died for Jesus.

Missionary to Afghanistan David Leatherberry said to me not long ago, “We need to be honest with ourselves that [missionary service] could mean dying for [Jesus]. We don’t look for that. We don’t want to necessarily die. But we have to think about that... because of our strong commitment to Christ.”

We do not risk for the sake of risk. We do not die for our own glory. Instead, we place our intention to risk against the boundaries of stewardship, obedience to authority, and our mission, and the good of the local church.

Unfortunately, there have been many instances, where the beautiful sacrifice of believers in the cause of Christ did not lead to any increase in church planting, people being saved, nor more commitment by disciples. There are many unfortunate examples of entire churches being wiped out – at least for a time – so completely by persecution that the very memory of the church is erased from a people or a country. This has happened in Albania, China, Central Asia, the Middle East, and many other places.

God will ultimately triumph, and his Kingdom will prevail over all the earth. But martyrdom should never be a means to an end. And it is not a church growth strategy. If we must be martyred for our faith, let us do so because we are willing to follow Jesus even into death if that is what he asks of us.

Now you know.

Next time we’ll talk more about some more risk myths.