

# Security Briefs Episode 11

## Risk Myth Busters Part 4

For the last several episodes, we have been talking about “risk myths” as outlined by Anna Hampton in her book *Facing Danger (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*. For more on that, check out episodes 8 through 10.

Today we are going to combine three risk myths that overlap because they have to do with how we respond – or more accurately – fail to respond to risk. These risk myths are:

## Risk Myths

### Risk Myth #5

**Just keep a positive mental attitude and everything will be okay.**

This risk myth is based on a positivistic worldview. Usually, Scriptures like Psalm 91 are quoted to support this myth, and it leads to a passive response to risk with no focus on planning for risk.

### Risk Myth #6

**We aren't really risking.**

This risk myth also leads to a passive response because it says that if die, then it is irrelevant because we will be in heaven with Christ. Matthew 16:25 is generally used to support this myth.

### Risk Myth #7

**We've already counted the cost.**

This is like the other two risk myths in that it is a passive response to risk. It couples risk taking with dying for Christ as the only cost one pays in risk. It ignores that counting the cost is an ongoing process, not a one-time event, and that living for Christ may be a higher cost to pay and what is required in a risk situation.

## Debunking the Myths

In each of these myths, these passive responses reject planning for risk is rejected or even looked at as something unspiritual. Worse, it couches this lack of response as courage, when in fact it may take far more courage, stamina, and resiliency to face risks than to ignore them.

In particular, when leadership casually throws around the “counted the cost” risk myth as its response to risk, it implies that anyone who believes that certain risks should be avoided or mitigated have not counted the cost.

While Matthew 16:25 tells us that he who loses his life will find it, this refers more to death to our own desires and inward focus. Indeed, Luke 21:19 tells us that there is a constant dying to self

required in following Christ, not a one-time decision. We can persevere in a difficult situation without quitting.

Ministry is costly, so we must continue to count the cost and actively engage in each risk decision, following Jesus with joy.

Now you know.

Next episode, we are going to pause our conversation about risk myths and focus on decisions about staying or leaving a country because of risk.