Love in a time of wars and rumors of wars

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Kalamazoo Mennonite Fellowship

November 15, 2015

Perhaps, like you, I was doing some everyday thing. It my case, I was talking to our designer about donation banners for a year-end campaign. Her phone started buzzing. “I’ve got to turn off those notifications,” she said. “Did you hear about the bombings in Paris?”

I hadn’t. But the news came pouring in: a series of coordinated attacks in Paris; according to my latest accounts, three teams of ISIS terrorists, death toll as I write this is 129 with many more injured. My Facebook and Twitter accounts blowing up with different hashtags and background images and reminders that not all Muslims are terrorists and that the refugees and immigrants in France were fleeing people like ISIS.

And I became aware of attacks that claimed the lives of more than three dozen people, again with many people injured, around 200. Again, claimed by ISIS[[1]](#footnote-1).

* October 27, 2015: 115 people dead in the Syrian civil war including 38 civilians[[2]](#footnote-2).
* October 25, 2015: 161 people dead, including 23 civilians.
* September 21, 2015: 120 killed, including 85 civilians.

And on and on.

It strikes me that Jesus’s prediction that there would be “wars and rumors of wars” before he returns is strikingly true today. On the one hand, it may actually be that worldwide violence (worldwide, not in specific places like the Middle East or South Sudan) is down. On the other hand, information is immediately available to almost everyone: we hear about wars as they happened; and we are always somewhat aware that bad things are happening all the time in places that we (perhaps) do not care about as much (such as Lebanon or South Sudan).

When Jesus said there would be “wars and rumors of wars,” he did that as a part of a call to action on the part of his disciples. And it is these calls to action that I want to focus on.

Do not be led astray

Be aware that your testimony will be required

Be aware that crappy things are going to happen

Be alert, like workers who await their masters imminent return

Which means be alert to the *work* you are called to do, which includes love

1. ISIS claims responsibility for blast that killed dozens in Beirut, New York Times, November 12, 2015. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/13/world/middleeast/lebanon-explosions-southern-beirut-hezbollah.html>, Accessed November 14, 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. I AM SYRIA, <http://www.iamsyria.org/daily-death-toll.html>, Accessed November 14, 2015. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)