

Someone Should do Something About That

By Kristen Gatenby

Summary

A husband and wife struggle with the burden of world events. What are "they" going to do about it?

Scripture Reference

Galatians 6:9-10

Characters

Mary, A concerned citizen

Hal, Mary's husband

Script

(Scene: A kitchen table sits centre stage, complete with plates, cereal etc. Two chairs sit either side of the table facing the audience. On one chair sits Mary. She is reading a news magazine, totally absorbed, occasionally sighing or shaking her head. Hal enters, reading a newspaper. He crosses the stage slowly, also intent on his reading. He sits down on the other chair, not appearing to notice Mary. They read silently.)

MARY: *(sighing)* Terrible. Just terrible.

HAL: *(not looking up)* Hmm?

MARY: Look at this *(points to her magazine)*. There are more people living on the streets than ever before. Can you believe what's going on these days?

HAL: *(still not looking up)* Mmmm.

MARY: It's not good having so many people sleeping in doorways. They should have food, and shelter -

HAL: And showers.

MARY: Be serious. These are real people. Someone should do something.

HAL: I suppose you're right. *(Continues reading his paper)*

(Mary shakes her head, and goes back to reading her magazine. They read silently for a few moments.)

MARY: Oh dear.

HAL: What now?

MARY: It's just so sad. What is the world coming to?

HAL: Going downhill, I suspect.

MARY: Did you hear about that earthquake?

HAL: No, but I guess I'm about to.

MARY: Whole cities. Buried under rubble. Millions of people homeless. They're all dying of starvation. It's dreadful.

HAL: Where did it happen?

MARY: Over in Uzbek-kazagurkistan or somewhere.

HAL: That's over the other side of the world, isn't it?

MARY: I don't know. I keep getting those countries confused. There's always a civil war or coup going on somewhere.

HAL: *(Bored)* Nothing but death and destruction. *(Turns the page of his newspaper)* Here's something you might find interesting. They've set off the bomb again.

MARY: See? That's just what I was talking about. The whole world is falling to pieces.

HAL: *(only half listening)* Dreadful.

MARY: Someone should do something about it.

HAL: I don't know...

MARY: No, really. I mean it's not fair that governments can just blow up small coral atolls for no apparent reason. What about all those tropical fish?

HAL: *(still reading his paper)* Maybe they could feed them to all those starving Kazagurgys.

MARY: Now that's a bit silly.

HAL: What else are they going to do?

MARY: Well, they've got to do something. That's all.

HAL: Who's "they"?

MARY: You know - "them". Someone has to fix this mess.

HAL: Oh.

(There is a pause. Both read for a moment. Hal starts to sniff the air.)

HAL: What's that smell?

MARY: *(looks up briefly)* I think I forgot to turn the iron off.

HAL: Someone should do something about that.

MARY: *(still reading)* Mmmm.

(Both stay reading, as if nothing had been said.)

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