

Being Compassionate In A Non Compassionate World

By Clay Barnes

Perhaps you heard about Kayla Mueller's unfortunate fate at the hands of the terrorist group ISIS. Since the announcement about Miss Mueller's death the common thought among family and friends was that Kayla did more in 26 years than some people had. Kayla was able to grasp more about God than most people do in a lifetime.

We see an example of that in a letter penned to her father on his birthday in 2011. "I find God in the suffering eyes reflected in mine. If this is how you are revealed to me, this is how I will forever seek you. I will always seek God. Some people find God in church. Some people find God in nature. Some people find God in love; I find God in suffering. I've known for some time what my life's work is, using my hands as tools to relieve suffering."

From what little we know of her life in captivity, it is clear she tried to practice one of Jesus' most

challenging teachings: “Love you enemies.” She did not treat her captors with hostility. If anyone had a reason to be angry with Islamic fundamentalists, it would have been Kayla, but in a letter she wrote to her family from prison in August 2013, shows not a shred of bias or hate. Any resentment she harbors seems directed at herself for the pain she has caused her family. “I will never ask you to forgive me as I do not deserve forgiveness,” she wrote.

WOW!!! Very powerful words indeed, but lessons we gain from Miss Mueller, but more importantly from the Lord himself. Matthew 5: 43-48 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48

Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Do we grasp this command as some do? I'm not not sure. Granted, its a very hard thing to do, but Jesus commanded it so we must press toward that goal. Consider, and take a moment to digest Proverbs 16: 7 ***When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.*** The best way to have our enemies reconciled unto us, is for us first to be reconciled unto God. If we stoop down to the lowliness of our enemies (Which I Often do) lowers our chance of impressing people how great, and powerful Our God really is.

Consider what the prophet Isaiah says in chapter 59: 19. ***So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.*** How prophetic! That is what Miss Mueller did, and it is exactly what we must do. Consider Matthew 5: 14-16. ***“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your***

light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven”

Shining Our light can come in a variety of ways. Public or private teaching, teaching, and being a good example to our families, and the world in general or perhaps maybe more importantly thru our actions. I Samuel 2: 3 ***Do not multiply your words of pride, let not vain-glory come out of your mouth; For Jehovah is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.*** Gives credence I guess to the phrase “Actions speak louder than words? Miss Mueller taught a lot of lessons in captivity. What about us? We are in the captivity of sin where we can teach some lessons ourself. Look at the lessons Paul taught while confined, and had marvelous results. I'm thinking about Acts 16 where Paul and Silas were in prison in stocks praising God, and acting like nothing is wrong. The result? The Jailer, and his family were saved. What wonderful sermons we preach while Satan tries to hold us captive in this world. Consider what Paul says to the Corinthians in 2nd Corinthians 4: 16-17. ***So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For***

this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. GO TEACH!! GET INTO ACTION!!

The Sayre Revealer December 28, 2014