

Treasures In The Darkness

Kiley Frederick Bult

This post was written on Memorial Day 2018 — a year and a half after Jake died. (link to post below)
<https://www.facebook.com/7912525/posts/10111666618005870/?d=n>

At the time I wrote the post above, Colt was 4 and Mayley was a little more than a year old. They're now 3 and nearly 7, and my life is a living testimony of the beauty God promises to bring from the ashes as we wait on and cry out to Him. In my darkest moment, my deepest heartache and the utter brokenness of the past four years, I can truly say my greatest treasures in life have come out of the darkness. Out of the depth of pain, God taught me to draw closer to Him, He showed me His love in unimaginable ways and continues to do so. He taught me to fully depend upon and rest in Him as I waited on His perfect will and plan for my life to be revealed. It truly all came in His timing, not mine. Here are just a few of my greatest treasures that emerged from this last season of my life:

"And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel." Isaiah 45:3

- 1. He's enough.** When life seems unbearable and the future unknown — God has shown me He is enough. In a world where we strive to always be enough, or feign the strength that we are, in fact, enough woman or man to 'do it all' ... at some point in life, we all come to realize the fact — We are not enough alone. God wants us to accept that He alone is enough for us. It was at my weakest I realized I could never be enough. I could never be Jake. I could never replace what was lost. There was only so much of me left to give to my two children and still find my way. But, I knew I could draw closer to my Heavenly Father, rather than push away from the very foundation that grounded me. As I took each baby step forward toward the King who loved me, God closed the gap and met me right where I stood. Sometimes faith can look like a giant leap, and sometimes it's in the smallest steps that He reveals Himself. For me, God used every tiny little step to reveal that in every piece of heartbreak He was enough, despite my story.
 - *"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Corinthians 12:9*
- 2. I'm known.** There were so many moments where the enemy wanted me to believe the lie that no one would ever see me or love me or understand the depths of my soul like my late husband had. God used those insecurities to increase my love-relationship with the only One who could truly know me inside and out. When I felt lost, lonely and misunderstood in the swirling chaos of unknown that followed Jake's death, God constantly reminded me in a million different ways the incredible treasure it was to be known by the One who created me before I was known to this world. He called me by name and He loved me — before known was known. I won't say there weren't intense moments of loneliness along the way, or that I don't battle that in waves now, but I'm never alone in Christ. I get asked the question all the time ... and have asked myself the same: "Why? How can this ever be okay?" I'm remarried now, and God truly is our great Giver. My life and all that's in it is a gift — and one that's been orchestrated by Him, without doubt. But, long before I remarried, here's the answer God gave me to that heart-wrenching question as I begged him for answers: "Yes. It's okay. As a result of all the suffering, I have a greater love relationship with my King — that is worth every piece of heartache and struggle. That end result brings eternal rewards and a heavenly perspective that simply cannot come from focusing on broken circumstances. I'm thankful for all God has allowed because it's pushed me further into His arms." And that, is the

Treasures In The Darkness

Kiley Frederick Bult

sweetest treasure of all. He knew what I needed to bring me not just to His feet, but fully buried in His all-knowing, loving arms.

- *"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."* Jeremiah 1:5

3. **He answers.** His heart is to hear from us. God taught me through all the hard to cry out, to pray harder, to seek Him deeper for all the answers, instead of endlessly searching a world that could never fully supply everything I needed in the form of "known." The last part of Jeremiah 33:3 says, God will show us great and mighty things that we know not. I remember reading that scripture a little before Memorial Day 2018 and dating it in my Bible (April 2018). I committed then to pray this scripture over my life, my kid's lives and the future that was unknown to me. You see, sometimes God answers how we ask Him to. And, sometimes He answers, but in the way He knows best. When I cried out for him in 2016 to bring Jake home, that rescue came, but not how I prayed. Jake was found, and he is Home, face-to-face with Christ. His lifeless body was shipped home to Texas, but the real Jake — his soul was Home ... the greatest promotion a believer in Christ can ever receive. I couldn't ask any more for him than that destiny. But what about me? Sometimes victory doesn't look pretty. The cross is the greatest victory in human history, yet it didn't look very triumphant at the time. Sometimes God says wait. In the waiting He wants us to learn to trust Him, cry out to Him and lean on Him alone while He orchestrates the victory — unseen and unknown to us. That was my last season of life. The past four years taught me to cry out like I never had before. On the other side of the lessons God continues to teach me daily are answers I could've never imagined. Because sometimes, God answers us with stories that are great and mighty and far beyond what we could ever ask or dream. God has been faithful to fulfill His promise in Jeremiah 33:3 to me over and over this past year. In 2020, God showed me a life I never imagined. He restores and truly does make all things new. Never underestimate the power of a desperate, heartfelt cry to a God who already knows it all. I will continue to pray this scripture over my life and my children's lives in all my days ahead.

- *"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."* Jeremiah 33:3

As we near Memorial Day 2020, life looks different than it ever has before in the midst of this global pandemic. Yet, none of it was unknown to God. **He's enough** to carry us through heartache, loss, and sacrifice. **We're known** — He sees our deepest need, our longest day, our hardest moment, our worst responses and the ugliest parts of us; but He loves us anyway. If we turn to Him in the suffering, in the unknown and the hard times — **He answers** in great and mighty ways we can't even begin to know or comprehend. I choose that God over fear, His way over mine, and trust my unknown future to a known God. As we remember the lives sacrificed for our great nation this Memorial Day, don't forget the picture those sacrifices paint of the greatest sacrifice of all at the cross. As a result of that sacrifice, we have hope, eternal life and Home ahead. With a focus on heaven versus this world, there's nothing but real joy in the treasures He gives us in the darkness. For each of them, I'm thankful. I love to say, and I believe it: "The stories He writes are both the ones we couldn't, but also wouldn't write — He knows best."

To follow all God is doing in Kiley's life, you can join her mailing list at www.kileyandmichael.com. Her story is proof God answers, redeems, makes all things new & brings beauty for ashes as we wait on Him for the answers only He knows.