

**KAILUA CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026**  
**SERMON: "QUESTIONS"**  
**REV. IRENE WILLIS HASSAN**  
**SCRIPTURE: JOHN 1:29-42**

Scripture: John 1:29-42

**29** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! **30** This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' **31** I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

**32** Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. **33** And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' **34** I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One."

**35** The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. **36** When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

**37** When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. **38** Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

**39** "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

**40** Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. **41** The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). **42** And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

## **Sermon: Questions**

Sometimes we neglect our prayer life because we're embarrassed that we don't know the right words to say to God. After all, it is God—the Alpha and Omega, the Creator of everything, who knows everything about you. Honestly, it's a bit intimidating to think about having a conversation with anyone of that status. What could I possibly say that He doesn't already know?

Or maybe we do know how to talk to God ... but only in private. I've rarely seen someone enthusiastically volunteer to pray aloud in a meeting. I get it! It's scary, not only talking to the Bossman, but doing it "right," or worse, doing it "right" in front of other people.

So, let's talk about how to pray.

In John 1, John the Baptist takes the vastness of Jesus' divinity and makes it approachable: "the Lamb of God." Instead of cosmic language or complicated theology, John uses a simple image: gentle, vulnerable, sacred, and offered in love. He brings God closer. What seems incomprehensibly divine becomes intimate, approachable, present. We are given a God we can look at, walk toward, and speak to.

And Jesus does speak. When John calls out to Him, He asks, "What do you want?" Honestly, I chuckle when I read this—like a mother whose toddler has said, "MOM MOM MOM!" one too many times while she's trying to make breakfast. But what really matters is that Jesus responds with a question.

Jesus asked over 300 questions in the Gospels. We expect the Son of God—the Perfect Human—to have all the answers. But instead of just giving answers, He asks. Why? Because questions are how relationships deepen. When you first meet someone, questions show care, interest, and a desire to know each other. God does the same with us.

God may already know the answers to everything, but by asking questions, He invites us into relationship. Take His question, "What do you want?" John's disciples respond simply: they want to hang out with Jesus, to be with Him and know Him. They ask, "Where are you staying?" In other words: Can we be with you? Can we know you?

That's prayer. Prayer isn't about impressing God or finding the perfect words. It's about curiosity, being known by God, and deepening our relationship with Him. Too often, we treat prayer like a performance. We polish our words, try to sound faithful, or prove we've studied enough theology. But Jesus isn't impressed by polished prayers; He's moved by honest ones.

Some of the most faithful prayers in Scripture are questions: *How long, O Lord? Why have you forsaken me? Where can I go from your presence? Who do you say that I am? Do you love me?*

Prayer doesn't have to sound rehearsed or fancy. It can simply sound like this:

- God, why did this happen?
- God, where are you?
- God, what should I do?
- God, who am I becoming?
- God, what do you want for me?
- God, what do I want?

Questions are prayers because they create space for God to meet us where we are, not where we think we're supposed to be. Prayer becomes less about getting it right and more about deepening relationship with the One who created us, knows everything, and still meets us gently. Even with all of God's power, God does not demand or dictate; God invites, listens, and asks questions, because that is how real relationships grow.

Sometimes we don't pray because we're afraid we don't have the right words. But Jesus shows us through His questions that you don't need the right words. Prayer is simply the courage to deepen your relationship with the Lamb of God, who just wants to know you.

So what would it look like if, this week, instead of trying to pray better, you just prayed honestly? What if you let your prayer be a conversation instead of a speech? What if you let God ask you questions? And what if you asked God some, too?

The magic of these questions—the dialogue and relationship they build—leads to renewal. At the end of John 1, Jesus gives Simon a new name: “Cephas,” which means Peter. Simon doesn't earn it by praying the perfect prayer. Jesus simply speaks it, because prayer isn't about finding the right words; it's about entering into a gentle, vulnerable, and honest conversation with God.

So maybe prayer isn't about impressing the Alpha and Omega. Maybe it's about being honest with the Lamb of God—the gentle, present, approachable God—who asks real questions and then stays. Talk to Him about what you want, because He literally asked His disciples this multiple times. And then, ask Him what He wants, because these questions open the door to the renewal that is only possible through Him.

As we move into discussion, consider prayer as asking questions and deepening relationship. Ask yourself and each other:

- What questions do you have for God?
- What questions do you think God has for you?