

DIVINE INTERRUPTIONS

Dear children, let us not love in words or speech, but with actions and in truth. – 1 John 3:18



Growing up, the word, *kaukau* was often used to associate with eating or drinking. *Kau* meant “to place”. Though *kaukau* had different meanings, it may have been falsely aligned and corrupted with the Chinese word, “chow” or that food is “placed” (*kau*) before a person. However, in the Hawaiian perspective, *kaukau* had no association with drinks or eating of a meal. Instead, it was a form of correction meant to “*present a problem or situation for consideration*”. In the Hawaiian practice, *kaukau* was done in a calm, reasoning, and teachable manner.

In John, Chapter Eleven, we see two women who experience deep, emotional pain. Lazarus, brother of Martha and Mary is dead. Their lives are completely flipped upside down. They had hoped that Jesus would have arrived on time when they called for Him. Unknown to them, Jesus delays His arrival for the glory of God. From hope, they go to tears. When He does arrive, Martha was hurting, but Mary was so disappointed that she refused to leave the house to meet the Lord. (v.20) Meanwhile, Martha is about to get a clearer understanding of who Jesus is and what His identity meant to her. She says to Jesus, “*Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.*” (v.21) Jesus replies, “*Your brother will rise again.*” (v.23) Martha answers, “*I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day*”. In a “*kaukau*” moment, Jesus says to her, “*I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?*” (v.25-26) In other words, Jesus is saying, “*Here are the facts, Martha and let me interrupt you to think of this situation, so that you may truly understand who I am because when you do, it will prepare you for what I am about to do on your behalf.*”

Here’s another example. One day, my brother did something he shouldn’t have, and I seized the opportunity to get him in trouble. I told him, “*Ooooh, I goin’ tell Mommy!*” When I did, my mother disciplined my brother, then, to my surprise, called me over to discipline me, too! I pleaded with her that I didn’t do anything! My mother disagreed. She said, “*You could have stopped your brother from his trouble, but you did nothing. And because you didn’t help and correct him, I’m going to make sure you get the same discipline he did.*” I never forgot that lesson. It was a *kaukau* moment in my life from my mother in reminding me the importance of being a restorer. Like my mother, God’s church is called to interrupt and hold its members accountable for the way they live. It may involve teaching and encouraging the saints in their walk with the Lord, but it should also involve applying biblical discipline to sinning saints for the purpose of correction and restoration. In my home, discipline was a family matter. I don’t discipline the neighbor’s children to expect them to live by my rules, but it’s a different story for my children when they lived at home. In the same way, there’s no escaping this responsibility for the church. The role of the church is to *kaukau* or “*lay the cards on the table*” to help its members live lives that are worthy of Christ by aligning themselves with Him. It’s correction and “*divine interruption*” in the form of “*aloha*” that points out what is wrong, so people can fix it and get their lives to line up with the Lord.