



SERIES: John Believe
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Tuesday, April 25, 2023
Scripture: John 17:22-26
TITLE: Jesus' Audacious Request

What audacious request have you made in your life? Perhaps, it's the forgiveness of a debt or delayed payment of an overwhelming bill. Maybe it was to join your spouse or coworker in first class on that overseas flight.

I can think of several I've made. Even this last year, before a flight, my family was separated in the boarding process, which can make sitting together pretty challenging. But I asked the gate agent, and by grace, he let us all board together first thing.

Did you know that Jesus made an incredible request on our behalf before His death? It's true. What did He ask? Let's find the answer as we wrap up Jesus' prayer in John 17:22-26.

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

In the last couple of verses, Jesus prayed for you and all the saints after the disciples. Incredibly but not surprisingly, Jesus knew each follower who would get saved until His return. And He prayed for us. He prayed for our unity so that the world might believe that God sent Him.

And then Jesus continues to impress that reality that God and Jesus are one in mission, in motive, in truth, in holiness, and in love. And this unity is extended to His spiritual children that God calls, and Jesus saves.

Then in verse 24, Jesus makes the stunning request. He says, "Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am..." (John 17:24). To ask the gate agent to bend the rule so my family could board together was gutsy. To ask a stewardess to allow a person into first class is ridiculous. But for Jesus to ask God to allow us to be with Him in His eternal glory in heaven should overwhelm us.

Why should this stop us in our tracks? It's because—imagine your worst enemy comes to your door and asks you to come in for a meal and a game. No, that's not enough. Your worst enemy,

who has sued you for everything you have and defamed your name everywhere they could, comes over and wants to live with you and become your kid.

That's audacious. That's ridiculous. That's crazy. But Jesus says, "I came to turn you from my enemy to my child. Not only am I asking God to transform you but to give you a dwelling place forever in my Father's house."

By God's grace, Jesus offers us a new today, tomorrow, and eternity. He saves our souls, transforms our lives, and welcomes us into the family and family home. Incredible.

If you have ever felt unworthy of God's love, you should. I do. But because of that truth, I rejoice.

In Jesus' prayer, He asked God for believers' preservation, jubilation, liberation, sanctification, unification, association, and glorification. What a prayer! What requests! What a friend we have in Jesus!