

Just Be There 2.0

Inspired by an experience of Veli Gary Carter

Verse 1:

I crossed the ocean with a heart to serve
Armed with my faith and stumbling words
Thought perfect language was the key I'd need
But the Lord had something else to teach to me

I said "läski" when I meant to say "leski"
Called a widow "fat" instead of what I meant to be
But she laughed and let me in to share
The plan of salvation, a husband waiting there

Chorus:

Just be there, just be there
The Lord works through the broken prayer
You don't have to be perfect or know what to say
His love will find a way
Just be there, just show you care
Your halting words become a sacred prayer
When your heart is sincere and true
The Lord will do the rest through you

Verse 2:

We sang "Joulupukki" in the winter snow
In retirement homes where the carols flow
Didn't understand every single word
But love's a language everyone has heard

Sister Pentillä, tears streaming down
"Kiitos, Veli, now I've found Happiness—
that's why we're here"
The stumbling brought the Savior near

Chorus:

Just be there, just be there
The Lord works through the broken prayer
You don't have to be perfect or know what to say
His love will find a way

Just be there, just show you care

Your halting words become a sacred prayer
When your heart is sincere and true
The Lord will do the rest through you

Bridge:

Finland taught me something more
Than grammar rules or language law
A flawless speech without the heart
Falls empty, never hits its mark
But sincerity, though rough and raw
Can move a soul and break the walls

Final Chorus:

Just be there, just be there
The Lord works through the imperfect and the scared
He takes our mistakes and makes them whole
Turns stumbling into saving souls
Just be there, don't be afraid
Your broken offering He'll upgrade
When you show up with love that's true
The Lord will do the rest through you

Outro:

"Hilja, hilja, joulu kellot..."
The music bridged what words could not
Learning Finnish?
That was hard
But learning love across the yards
Between our cultures, faiths, and fears—
That's what brought Sister Pentillä to tears

Just be there... just be there...
The Lord will meet you anywhere