

“Elephants Never Forget”

by
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- What** In this skit, Becky is followed around by an elephant companion that never forgets. Even though she has asked Jesus for forgiveness, the elephant constantly reminds her of past sins and disappointments, keeping her from being ready to serve in the future.
Themes: Relationship with Jesus, Sin, Forgiveness, Freedom, Disappointment, Guilt, Remorse, Shame, Service
- Who** Becky
Elephant
- When** Present Day
- Wear (Props)** Black Pants/Gray T-Shirt for Elephant,
Wearable Sign that Reads “Elephant”
Medium-sized Box labeled “Past- Becky’s Sins, Disappointments, and Grudges”
Clay
Yo-Yo
2 Broken Plate Pieces
Photo
Letter
Backpack
Pencil
Cell Phone
- Why** Psalm 103:12; Philippians 3:13-14; Isaiah 43:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5: 17-18
- How** This skit contains both humor and drama and actors should read lines with intent. Alternate clothes for Elephant include an elephant costume without the sign. Becky is wearing everyday clothing. At the beginning of the skit, Becky is carrying the box containing the clay, yo-yo, broken plate, photo, letter, backpack, pencil, and cell phone. Be sure that the plate pieces are not sharp. The clay should be shaped into something ridiculous and unrecognizable.
- Time** Approximately 5 to 7 minutes

Becky enters the stage carrying a box with the label facing the audience. She acts as if the box is very heavy and sets it down before reaching center stage. She wipes her forehead as if sweaty and exhausted and takes a deep breath.

Becky: *(talking to self)* Okay, you can do this. Just throw it out, Becky. You're forgiven. No looking back.

Becky stares at the box and moves closer. She touches the flaps as if she is about to open it. Realizing what she is about to do, she steps back quickly from the box, shakes her head, and picks it back up.

Becky: Nope. You're done with that stuff. Time for it to go. Like Jesus said, tossed into the deep waters of the sea.

Becky continues to walk. Elephant enters, creeping up behind Becky and says next line as Becky reaches center stage.

Elephant: Boo!

Becky screams, jumps, drops the box, and turns toward Elephant. Elephant laughs.

Elephant: You thought I was a mouse, didn't you? I hate those things!

Becky: *(still recovering from her fright)* You scared me to death, Elephant. You're always sneaking up on people. It's not nice!

Elephant: *(without remorse)* Sorry. So, whatcha doing? *(eyeing the box).*

Becky: *(still annoyed)* Not that it's any of your business, but I'm tossing this box.

Turning her back on Elephant, she looks down reluctantly at the box again. Elephant moves around her to the other side of the box.

Elephant: *(curious)* Oh? What's in it? I might want it.

Becky: It's just stuff that I keep digging through. Things from my past that are weighing me down. Now that I'm forgiven, it's time to get rid of them.

Becky picks up the box, but Elephant quickly takes it from her.

Elephant: Whoa, whoa, whoa! Let's not get too hasty here.

Becky: Elephant! It's just a bunch of things I need to forget if I'm going to be free to look toward the future. And I know how you are. You never let me forget ANYTHING.

Elephant: *(looks pointedly at Becky)* Becky, never say forget to an Elephant. Anyway, you can't get rid of this stuff. *(sets the box down and starts to dig through)* Look at this! *(pulls out a clay blob)* Remember you made this in 1st grade.

Becky: *(chuckles)* I don't know how that got in there, but it definitely looks like a mistake so it can stay in the box. *(takes the clay from Elephant and places it back in the box)*. Look, this is just stuff that's getting in my way. Jesus said I can forget—

Elephant: *(puts fingers in his ears, interrupting with a warning tone)* Don't say it! Not that word again! *(starts digging through the box again)* Remember this! *(pulls out yo-yo)*. This was your favorite yo-yo. You stole it from that toy store in 3rd grade.

Elephant plays with yo-yo and then places it on the ground while Becky folds her arm in frustration and watches. Elephant digs back in box and pulls out 2 pieces of plate.

Oh, boy! This was the plate you threw at your brother that time he read your diary. *(Places plate pieces on the ground and laughs at the memory)*. You were so mad! And this! *(pulls out letter)* The letter your best friend wrote you with the big secret she was keeping from you. Having a hard time forgetting that one, aren't you?

Becky: *(sardonically)* Especially with you around.

Elephant: *(places letter on the ground, ignoring Becky as if she didn't speak)* Oh wow! *(pulls out photograph and raises eyebrows suggestively)* A picture of Tommy, your high school boyfriend. Remember that night that you and he went to the lookout point and—

Becky: *(quickly interrupting)* Stop! Can we please just forget about this stuff? *(grabs photo and shoves back in the box)*

Elephant: *(offended)* Becky, elephants NEVER forget! I thought I made that clear. Besides, all of this *(gesturing to the box)* is who you are. *(digging in box again)* Remember this one? *(pulls out backpack)* This is the backpack you used when you were that camp counselor for the summer. You were soooo bad at that...that kid probably still has poison ivy. *(smugly)* By the way, I did remind you that poison ivy has 3 leaves. Guess you should have listened to me.

Becky: *(grabs backpack and hastily puts back in box)* Elephant, that's not me anymore. I'm a new creation. In fact, *(smiling excitedly)* I might teach Vacation Bible School this year!

Elephant: *(appalled)* Bad idea. Hold on. Let me show you. *(digs through box and pulls pencil out)* This is the pencil you used to poke that kid. You drew blood! One more way that you are TERRIBLE with children.

Becky: *(affronted)* I was in kindergarten when that happened! *(grabs pencil and shoves it back in box).*

Elephant: *(ignoring her comment)* Plus you aren't very responsible, anyway. Look.

Elephant picks out alarm clock from box and Becky groans. She takes the alarm clock from Elephant but holds it and stares at it.

Becky: *(remembering)* I was fired from the newspaper because I kept sleeping through this alarm.

Elephant: Right. So, I doubt that you're reliable enough to do VBS. What if you're late to meet the kids?

Becky: *(puts clock on the ground uncertainly rather than in the box)* Yeah. Maybe.

Elephant: *(digging in the box and pulls out cell phone and hands it to Becky)* Oh! Here's another one that's pretty recent. Remember when you said that stuff on social media about—

Becky: *(looking sadly at the phone, interrupting quickly to stop the reminder)* Okay! I get it! I remember! I see what you're saying, Elephant. I don't know what I was thinking. I thought I was ready to jump into something like VBS, but with all of this stuff in my past, *(pausing sadly)* I'm obviously not. I guess I can't just toss this box. I need it to remind me that I'm not good enough before I make ANOTHER mess of things.

Elephant: *(nodding head sadly)* I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but you can't just forget the past.

Becky: *(confused)* Elephant, I don't understand. I was ready to let this stuff go. Jesus said He forgot my past. He said He forgave all sins as if they never happened. He asked me to forgive others and said he would take my hurts and disappointments and leave me with joy. This stuff *(waves cell phone around)* doesn't bring me joy. Why can't I forget the junk in this box *(kicks box disgustedly, but lightly)* if Jesus can?

Elephant: The box is who you are, Becky.

Becky: *(pausing at what Elephant said and then with realization and shaking head)* No! It's who I was.

Elephant: You can't just toss this stuff. Even if you get rid of the box, something will always remind you... *(smiling broadly)* or someone with a great memory like me.

Becky: *(nodding, confident now)* Maybe. But when they do, I'll remind them! *(throws cell phone in the box and starts to pick up items from floor and toss back in the box)* I've been transformed. The old me is gone. I'm moving forward without looking back.

Elephant: But...but...

Becky: You can have the box if it means so much to you, Elephant. Just don't bother to dig through it around me!

Elephant: *(disgruntled)* Fine. *(picks up the box)* It IS kind of heavy.

Becky: *(smiling knowingly)* Junk from the past usually is.

Elephant: *(sets box down)* Well, I guess I don't need the box itself. It's all up here anyway *(points to head)*.

Becky: Sure. But it's not here anymore. *(holds hand over her heart)* Let's go. You can remind me who makes the best ice cream in town and we can get a scoop.

Elephant: Oh yeah! The one on the corner. They have peanut butter-flavored and then sprinkle it with crushed peanuts.

Becky: *(laughing)* Of course.

Walking off the stage together companionably.

Elephant: *(resigned, ready to be helpful)* By the way, if you're set on this plan, sign-ups for VBS volunteering is next Sunday.

Becky: Awesome! Thanks for the reminder.

Lights down.