

“The Elephant in the Prayer Room”

by
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What In this skit, Becky encounters interference during her prayer time. She tries to continue her prayer and ignore the problem, but soon learns that Jesus is already aware of the issue and wants to address it and restore her relationship with Him.

Themes: Prayer, Confession, Coping with Pain, Restoration, Goodness of God, Sin, Petition

Who Becky
Jesus
Elephant

When Present Day

**Wear
(Props)** Bible
Card Table
3 Chairs
Rope, Jeans/White T-Shirt for Jesus
Black Pants/Gray T-Shirt for Elephant
Wearable Sign that Reads “Elephant”

Why Psalm 118:5; Job 30:25; Luke 22:44; Jeremiah 32:27; 1st John 3:20; Psalm 139:1-4

How This skit contains both humor and drama and actors should read lines with intent. Alternate clothes for Jesus could be Biblical clothing depending on director’s preference. Similarly, Elephant can wear an elephant costume and forego wearing the sign. Becky is wearing everyday clothing. At the beginning of the skit, the table is sitting center stage and the chairs are placed around it (left, right, and behind the table). Due to line interruptions and staging, timing is important.

Time Approximately 5 to 7 minutes

*Becky walks onto the stage from stage left, holding the rope tethered to the waist of **Elephant** and carrying her Bible. She sets the Bible on the table and then motions to **Elephant** to sit down behind the stage left chair on the floor. **Elephant** rolls his eyes and shakes his head.*

Becky: Come on! (*pleading*) Just sit down and please make yourself scarce. This won't take long.

Elephant: (*plops on the floor facing the audience. He sullenly studies his nails as if disinterested and offended*) Fine, keep ignoring me.

Becky: I will! (*Becky deliberately turns her back to **Elephant** and takes her seat at stage left, still holding the rope under the table. Trying to keep her voice down and looking toward stage right*) Now be quiet. Here He comes.

*Jesus comes in stage right. He sees **Becky** and smiles.*

Jesus: Becky! It's so good to see you.

*Becky nervously glances back to be sure **Elephant** hasn't moved. **Elephant** crosses his arms and pouts.*

Becky: You, too, Jesus! I've been looking forward to praying today.

Jesus: Anytime I can spend time with you is a good day! (*Jesus looks past **Becky** to the floor and then back at **Becky** and nods*) And it seems like we might have a lot to talk about.

*Laughing nervously but ignoring **Jesus'** glance and pulling the rope a bit to urge **Elephant** closer behind her chair to hide him.*

Becky: Oh, we do! First, I want to say that I appreciate the weather this week. It's been so beautiful and—

***Elephant** irritably yanks on the rope and frees himself from **Becky**. She yelps in surprise. **Jesus** watches the exchange calmly.*

Jesus: (*knowingly patient*) Is something wrong, Becky?

Becky: (*hedging*) Uh, no. What could be wrong? As I was saying, it's been so beautiful. Watching everything bloom has been amazing. I just wanted to let You know how much I admire—

*As **Becky** is talking, **Elephant**, gleefully free, gets up from the floor and boldly drags out the chair that is behind the table. He sits and places his elbows on the table and watches **Becky** talking as if intently interested. **Becky** tries to ignore **Elephant**, but*

*falters in her speech. However, she rallies and continues to talk as if **Elephant** did not sit down.*

Becky: I...I just wanted to let You know how much I admire Your handiwork. No one, but You could paint such an awesome landscape this week.

Jesus: Thanks, Becky. *(looks at **Elephant** and back at **Becky**, patiently)* Is anything else going on?

Becky: Well...I also thought I should tell You that I need some help.

Jesus: *(leaning forward attentively)* Of course. What is it?

Elephant: *(**Elephant** raises his hand)* Pick me, pick me! I know!

***Becky** pointedly ignores **Elephant** while **Jesus** calmly watches the exchange. **Elephant** moves his hand from the raised position to waving it in front of **Becky's** face. She knocks his hands aside but does not look at **Elephant**.*

Becky: As You know, one of my friends, Abby, has been sick, so I wanted to pray for her health and some peace for her.

Jesus: Yes, I DO know. *(pauses to make meaning clear, lifting eyebrow)* And, I will take good care of Abby. You're a good friend to her. *(steering the conversation to the obvious)* Now, what about anything specifically with you, Becky?

Elephant: *(muttering and crossing his arms at **Becky's** lack of response to him)* I am REALLY tired of being ignored.

Becky: Yes, of course...me. Well, I...was thinking about what I read the other day in 1st John and I wanted to know *(**Elephant** begins to bang on the table, but **Becky** talks loudly over top of him)* WHEN YOU SAID THAT WE SHOULD LOVE WITH ACTIONS, DID YOU MEAN—

Elephant: *(interrupting and speaking nonsense words, making talking motions with his hand)* Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah *(Continues to make noise and mock as **Becky** tries again to speak.)*

Becky: *(louder)* WHEN YOU SAID THAT WE SHOULD LOVE WITH ACTIONS, DID YOU MEAN THAT WE SHOULD— *(angry, she stops, stands and yells at **Elephant**)* WOULD YOU PLEASE BE QUIET!

***Becky** pauses horrified as she realizes that she has acknowledged **Elephant**. She quickly sits down and looks at the table, avoiding eye contact with **Jesus**.*

Elephant: *(sits back in chair satisfied, folding his arms, and smiling)* Finally! I'm getting some attention around here.

*Jesus is looking expectantly at **Becky** as if she will finally admit the **Elephant** in the room. **Elephant** watches the next exchange between **Becky** and **Jesus** smugly.*

Becky: *(takes a deep breath and looks up nervously at **Jesus**; picks up her Bible and stands as if preparing to leave)* Okay, Jesus. Good talk. I'll be back tomorrow, and we can finish—

Jesus: Becky.

Becky: *(pausing in her exit and bowing her head)* Yes, Jesus.

Jesus: I think we have more to talk about.

Becky: We could probably talk about it tomorrow.

Jesus: We both know you've been doing this for a while and tomorrow never seems to come.

Becky: *(hedging)* Doing what?

Jesus: Dragging this Elephant *(gesturing to **Elephant** who nods vigorously, holds arms up for accolades as if accepting accolades, happy to get attention)* in the prayer room and then refusing to talk about it.

Becky: *(sits down heavily in her seat again)* Jesus, I can't.

Jesus: Why not?

Becky: He's embarrassing—

Elephant: *(offended)* Hey!

Becky: *(ignoring again)* And it's too personal and I just want him to *(looking at **Elephant**)* GO AWAY.

Elephant: That isn't a nice thing to say. Right, Jesus? She's supposed to be nice. Isn't that what Your Word says?

Jesus: *(firmly to **Elephant**)* Be quiet. You've done enough damage.

***Elephant** sits back, quietly chagrined.*

Becky: *(looking up at **Jesus**)* See! He's always in the way when I try to talk to You, but I don't know how to get rid of him.

Jesus: Ignoring him isn't going to make him go away.

Elephant: *(excited about Jesus' statement)* Right on!

*Jesus looks firmly at **Elephant** who immediately sits back a little fearful and looks meekly at the table.*

Becky: But I thought if I just met with You regularly, he would stop...and maybe You wouldn't notice.

Jesus: Becky, I know when you wake and when you sleep. I know the number of hairs on your head. I know the secrets of your heart. So...yes, I notice when there is an elephant in the room.

Becky: I'm sorry, Jesus. I wanted to tell You at first, but I thought I could handle him. And then, well, it just seemed like we weren't close anymore and I was ashamed.

Jesus: Becky, anything that gets between us needs to come out in the open. We've talked about hard things before.

Becky: I know, Jesus, but this was different.

Jesus: If you trust Me, you can pour your heart out, and I will be a refuge for you.

Becky looks down at her hands.

Jesus: *(quietly encouraging her to respond)* Becky?

Elephant: *(forgetting that he is supposed to be quiet, he sits up proudly and excitedly)* Here it comes! She's going to tell You about me. I LOVE all of this attention! *(points haughtily at self and nodding)* Keep it coming!

Jesus: Elephant!

Elephant: *(looks meekly back at the table and mumbles)* Sorry.

Becky: *(sighs heavily as Jesus patiently waits)* After what happened last year, with all of that pain I dealt with, I've been having a hard time. Trusting you. Talking to you. Believing that you understand. I felt so alone.

Jesus: Becky, don't you know that I weep when your life is hard and grieve when you need something?

Becky: I know it in my head, Jesus. I read it in Your Word. But it's having a hard time getting into my heart. I prayed and prayed, and my prayer wasn't answered. I've been feeling like I don't matter to you.

Jesus: Becky. You matter. Everything I've done, everything I do, is because I love you. And, I know about praying for something and accepting a different answer. When I was in the garden and asked for the cup to be passed from me, it wasn't. I went to the cross. For you. I know you've been struggling, and I can help you through this.

Becky: *(looking hopeful)* You can?

Jesus: Yes, *(pointedly)* NOW that we're talking about it *(Becky looks sheepishly at Jesus)* we can work on it together.

Elephant: *(excited and barging into conversation again)* Great! I love teamwork. I have a lot of ideas about—

Jesus: *(interrupting)* You can go now, Elephant.

Elephant: *(mockingly hurt)* What? Aren't I the star of the show, now? You can't ignore me anymore! You know about me.

Jesus: Exactly. It's out in the open. No more elephant in the room. You can leave. *(pointing Elephant off stage).*

Elephant: *(pouting as he walks off)* Fine, but *(in "Terminator" voice and smilingly goofily at audience)* I'll be back.

Becky: *(watching as Elephant walks off and shaking her head at his quip)* Not if I can help it. Good riddance! *(looking back toward Jesus)* Thanks, Jesus. I was getting really tired of pulling that Elephant around. I feel better already.

Jesus: Good! We've still got some work to do, but I think it's time to rest a little. Come here. *(Jesus holds arms out to Becky as He stands up)* No more elephants between us. *(Becky gets up, grabs her Bible and goes to Jesus and accepts his hug)* That's better.

Becky and Jesus begin walking off-stage together.

Becky: So, about that verse in John.

Jesus: Right. *(laughs lovingly)* You know, Becky, if you read a little further down that chapter, it talks about how I know everything already.

Becky: *(smiles)* Okay, Jesus. I get it. No more secrets. *(lights down)*