



[INTRO/OPENING]

It is that time of year again! I'm not talking about hot cocoa and the fireplace. I'm talking about watching Buddy the Elf on repeat for the next few weeks. This is one of those movies that just feels right watching in July.

Think of the flow or plot of many movies. It goes something like this: all is well in the land, a problem arises, chaos ensues, a hero shows up, peace is restored.

This gives us a general snapshot of how movies are made. Even if it's not a grand action-packed adventure movie, these elements can be found. This is similar to what we see in the movie Elf. If you think about this narrative, it comes from somewhere. Think about the story of salvation.

God's Word tells us that all was great and good between Him and mankind. But not long after Genesis 1, we come to Genesis 3. This is where tragedy strikes. There's a rebellion of humanity against their good and loving God. This creates chaos and a major problem. Now all of mankind is broken and separated from their Creator. All seems hopeless. But God had a plan from before time began. He planned to restore and redeem His precious creation back to Himself. This is when the hero arrives. Jesus comes to fulfill the requirements of the law of God (which we can never do) and also satisfy His wrath toward sin (which we can do by being forever separated and punished for our sin). Jesus sets us free from sin. And one day He will come back to make all things new for good.

Here's the flow for the night. We are going to look at three truths about the gospel according to Buddy the Elf.

We learn that buddy was a human raised by elves. He said, "I'm an Elf, technically I'm a human who was raised by Elves".

[If possible, find the movie clip to show.]

As a baby, Buddy the Elf lived in an orphanage. He had no family to belong to. And then one night, when Santa came to visit the children, he crawled into Santa's pack and was transported to his new home. You see, Buddy

became a part of the Elf community. You could say that Buddy was adopted.

[DIVING DEEPER]

This brings us to our first point for tonight. **We are adopted.** Through Jesus, when we are saved, we become a part of the family of God. Listen to these verses that help explain this spiritual truth.

Galatians 4:4-5 NIV

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

As we enter into this season of Christmas, we are reminded of what God did for us. He clothed himself in human flesh and came to be among us. He came to be among broken humanity that He loved so that we could be restored back into a relationship with Him. Immanuel means “God with us”.

It sounds simple but it’s such a huge part of what we believe about the gospel. God came down to be among His creation. That’s something to celebrate!

Not only do we see that we can be adopted, we also know that **we have a purpose as we live for our King.** It’s absolutely overwhelming to think that we can have a restored relationship with Jesus. As Buddy struggled to find his place in the elf world, he would get frustrated when he couldn’t accomplish the task. **[Cotton-headed ninny muggings clip.]** But to also know that God chooses to use us to spread His good gospel is even more insane. In this relationship with Jesus we are made new and have a new purpose. Look at what this verse says.

Ephesians 2:10 says “For we are his creation – created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them.” What you do is a reflection of who you are. You are a child of the King! So you now live for Him and to bring glory to His name - not your own. (CSB)

Our prayer for you this season is that you would be reminded of what Jesus did for you and that you would be reminded of who you are. The word

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