

Christmas at the Movies - Week 3 – “Elf”

“The best way of spreading Christmas cheer [joy] is singing loud for all to hear.”

Buddy the Elf

It's a wonderful sentiment, but I don't think anyone that's ever sat next to me at church would agree with Buddy. If it wasn't for Psalm 98 that says, *“Make a joyful noise to the Lord,,,,”*, I probably would have been banned from singing at church years ago. As a matter of fact, many, years ago I was asked by the director to come to Youth choir practice. At the time, I was in the Youth leadership, and their hope was if the leaders came to practice, others might come as well. So, I went to choir practice...once. Afterwards, I was told by the choir director that he would completely understand if I couldn't come back. Admittedly, I knew the choir director, so, we were joking around...kind of. I'll put it this way, I never went back, and he never asked why.

So, for those of us that are musically challenged, how are we supposed to spread Christmas cheer, or if you will allow me, Christmas joy. When in doubt, go back to the source which in this case means scripture. So, let's look at a few scriptures that tell of Christmas joy.

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,”*

Isaiah 9:6

“Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

Isaiah 12:6

“After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”

Mathew 2:9-10

“But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord.”

Luke 1:13-15

“And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will

be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:10-11

I'll admit, these scriptures don't really tell us how to spread Christmas joy as much as they tell us the source of Christmas joy. And, through all of them, there is a common thread. And that thread is Jesus. In Isaiah's prophetic verses he tells us of a coming child, King and God. And he tells of our appropriate response, to “sing for joy”. In Matthew's gospel that speaks to the fulfillment of that prophecy, it tells us of the “wise men's” response when they realize the star has led them to Jesus. It says, “they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.” And in Luke's gospel that shows us Jesus as the “Son of man” he tells us of a great event. He tells us of the birth of our Savior and Lord. He tells us of Jesus. It is no longer a prophecy, but a prophecy fulfilled. And there is only one response to this “good news”, and that is “great joy.”

And so, this Christmas I pray that you may know all the happiness, all the warm feelings and pure emotions that come from the time you will spend with family and friends, and the gifts you may receive. But my fervent prayer is this, that you may receive the absolute joy that can only be known when you encounter Jesus.

I think the Psalmist might have said it best,

*“The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.”*

Psalm 126:3

