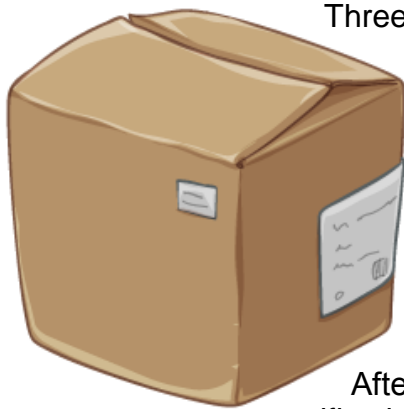


## The Diamond Wasn't There

A South African discovered one of the world's largest diamonds – the size of a small lemon.

He wanted to ship it to their London office as safely and as quickly as possible. But word of his find had gotten out, and he knew he would have to be extra careful to protect the gem.

He sent a steel box with four men to protect it. When the steel box arrived, much to their surprise, the diamond wasn't in it, just a lump of coal.



Three days later, by parcel post in an ordinary box, the diamond arrived in the London office. The South African figured that no one would pay any attention to an ordinary box.

More than 2,000 years ago, God came wrapped in an ordinary box in a way that no one expected in a place that was as remote and off the beaten path as one could imagine. Who would ever look for God in a stable in Bethlehem?

After Jesus' birth, His parents took him to the temple for purification rites, according to the law. A devout man named Simeon had been told by the Lord that he would not die before He had seen the Messiah. Directed by God, he went into the temple courts, met Joseph and Mary, and held Jesus in his arms. Simeon had found Jesus in an ordinary place. He was in the right place at the right time, looking for Christ. Simeon was paying attention.

How many times have we looked for Jesus in the spectacular and missed Him in the ordinary? How often have we looked for Him among the elite and missed Him in a resident? Have we sought Him in a ritual and missed Him in a relationship?

Christ is always present to us through His Spirit. We miss Him because we're not looking.

He can be found in the ordinary, if we are paying attention.

– Beecher Hunter