

## Ready or Not Here I Come

As a child we often played hide and go seek on our cul-de-sac after the streetlight had come on. You would have to be very still and quiet so the rustling of bushes didn't give you away to the person who was it and carrying a flashlight. We always knew who the good hiders were, and who the best seekers were. The game would begin by the seeker calling out, "Ready or not here I come!" You would feel the butterflies grow in your stomach as the light approached, hoping you wouldn't be found out. The youngest players would giggle or squeal when they were almost found. Eventually, the game would end when someone's mom would call out, "kids, time to come in!"

When Jesus arrived unceremoniously to Mary and Joseph, it was most likely a "ready or not" type of moment. They had planned. They had prepared. As new parents often do, they were probably scared, and wondered if they were going to know what to do with a new child. It was time. The butterflies, hoping, the waiting was all over! He was here! The Messiah as a tiny child had arrived.

A few short (maybe long) days later, Mary and Joseph made a trek to Jerusalem to have Jesus dedicated and a purification ritual at the Temple. A man by the name of Simeon greeted them and, *he took him [Jesus] up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."* And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, *"Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."* (Luke 2:28–35).

Simeon knew who Jesus was. He had seen Him! He could now go home in peace. What a wonderful relief to the man! His Father could now call him home because he had sought after the Lord and seen him face to face. He trusted the promises of God, and God had fulfilled them.

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