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While Jesus grew through the various stages of developing childhood, He never saw a mechanical device more complic ated than a cart. He never saw paper, or plastic, or a telephone, or a radio, or a camera, or a printed sheet, or a paved h ighway, or a gun, or a steam engine, or an electric motor. No one in His day ever got vaccinated or took vitamin pills or c onsulted a psychiatrist or had a song recorded or rode in a balloon or airplane or elevator. The people of His time had to get along without floating soap, chlorophyll toothpaste, rubber gloves, ready-mix flour, canned peas, Alka-seltzer, parkin g meters, Wheaties, puffed rice, electric razors, in-a-door beds, wristwatches, typewriters and Band-aids. Jesus never n ursed from a rubber nipple or ate a scientifically compounded formula or played with an "educational" toy or attended a p rogressive school or saw a comic book or owned a toy bomb shelter.

Judged against our present highly complicated manner of life, the people of Palestine in the days of Christ's flesh scarce ly lived at all. Were we forced suddenly to live as they did, we would feel that the bottom had dropped out of the world. S urely people who lived so close to nature could not be "real people" (to borrow the language of the liberals).

But they were real human beings all right, those simple people of Bethlehem and Capernaum. And the striking thing is the at they were exactly the kind of people we are. Not one minor variation distinguishes them from us. Only the externals w ere different. Those things that have changed belong to the outer man; the inner man has not changed in the slightest.