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FROM MANGER TO MANHOOD

In order for the Lord to understand us as humans, He needed to be tempted as a human according to scripture. In Hebrews 4:15 it says, ***“For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”*** Jesus had to go from infancy to adulthood in order to accomplish this. He was tempted just like we are but did not give in to the sin.

When Jesus came and “tabernacled” with us, it means he made his dwelling with mankind. He did not come as a little baby to stay a baby. In Luke 2:52 we find the only thing we know about his youth besides the time he was teaching in the temple. It says, ***“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”***

It is no surprise that this was the case, since Proverbs teaches us to get wisdom because it is the principle thing, (Proverbs 4:7) so, growing in stature means he didn’t stay in the manger. He grew up. He matured. He went through everything a young person goes through, including puberty, but he did not sin.

Then it says he increased in favor with God and man. Jesus never sought a reputation to be the one that demanded worship. He often talked about servanthood. He taught plainly to plain people. He opened blind eyes. He touched lepers and healed them. He raised the dead. His reputation spread because he came to serve. To do this we also cannot stay babes in a manger and be fed milk as Christians. We are to mature, to grow up, and build a reputation of respect. We aren’t to be looked upon as someone better than someone else. We are to be servants just like he was.

He had to go through what he did so he can understand our infirmities. The word infirmities comes from the Greek word “asthenia” which means feebleness of mind or body, disease, sickness, and weakness. Don’t ever think that Jesus doesn’t understand what you are going through, because he bore our sicknesses, and infirmities and weaknesses. He understands better than anyone else.

Maturity comes from acknowledging our weaknesses to God and allowing Him to bear them. Maturity comes when we seek wisdom and live by the Word of God. Maturity comes when we serve rather than demand being served.

We, like Jesus can not stay in the manger. We must go beyond the infant stage and grow up. He knew exactly what his assignment was and lived it out. He knew there would be suffering, pain, and grief, but he did it for you and me. Let us find our peace in knowing this, and press into the promises of God as we, too mature by becoming more and more like Jesus.