

# ***Not Quite Right News From Mark Golden***

## Upcoming Conference To Make Case For A Chubby Jesus

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Christianity will have a new Jesus, one with more pounds. Certain Bible scholars are professing a version of the Son of God which just might rank with the da Vinci *coded* Jesus.

At the annual conference of Jesus' Associates in America (JAIA) held this year in Albuquerque, NM, this hefty kind of Jesus will be made fully public. The case for a historical and culturally accurate *chubby* Jesus will be defended by every chunky jot and tittle whether real or imagined.

JAIA literature reads like this, "If one looks at any medieval paintings of Christ you will consistently see an anemic, skinny weakling who would surely have finished last in a 50 yard dash. The Son of God is portrayed as a wimpy underfed hero. A viewer would never think of him as a 'type A' achiever and tireless over-comer. A smiling, fulfilled messiah? Never. If you were to put the fat and happy Buddha next to the sad, thin man nailed to a cross, which one is more consumer friendly? Which one would you want over for tea or to watch the game?"

"When Hollywood began to make motion pictures about the life and death of Christ, viewers saw a wooden, emotionless figure, certainly not someone you would want to go on a long road trip with. These meditative, unsmiling, deep-socket eyed actors said little, and were anything but charismatic. In more recent movies such as Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" Jesus was portrayed as a truly emotional person with all of his communication skills intact.

"But there is a Jesus who has been well-hidden through the centuries. He is one whom well-fed and obese Americans can identify with. Recent biblical research revealed that he wasn't necessarily a compulsive overeater per se but, shall we say he enjoyed a good meal occasionally."

Jesus' Associates in America points out that, "We know much of what our Lord said and did, but there is next to nothing about his physical appearance. We are only told that he had a beard. Scripture is silent as to whether he was short, tall or perhaps even bald. But after careful study of the writings of early Church Fathers something unexpected was discovered. The Greek word 'acapayo' can be translated either as humble or *chubby*. It's a no-brainer as to which one the translators consistently chose. And so, we at JAIA are proud to present a long overdue 'humble and *chubby*' Son of God!

The JAIA provides a list of gospel accounts which when put under the light of a weight watcher mindset clearly make one lay down the silverware, pause and wonder. Such as: The great emphasis put on the Last Supper; Jesus feeding over 5,000 people (twice) with plenty of leftovers; his cursing a fig tree when it had no fruit on it; in the Sermon on the Mount he stated that, 'man cannot live on bread alone'; he and the disciples incurred the wrath of the rabbis for Sabbath breaking when they picked grain and ate it; the parable of the farmer planting crops; yeast used in baking, parable of the vineyard workers and new wine, some of his chosen apostles were (quite handy) fishermen; he spoke of a future

marriage supper in Heaven; after his resurrection he appeared to shocked disciples who thought that he might be a ghost, so for proof he asked for something to eat (sheer coincidence?); when the apostles saw the risen Jesus on the shores of Galilee he was barbequing fish and invited them to eat, etc.”

The JAIA will not go so far as to say that Jesus was a tub o’ lard or that food was always on his mind or that it might of impeded his doing the Father’s will. But they can almost hear his Jewish voice telling disciples, “Eat! Go on eat some more, why don’t you? You want to be thin all your life? I don’t want people remarking that I, ‘must not be the Messiah,’ because of how under fed you all look! Oy vey! Must I say it again? Eat! Enjoy a good meal why don’t you? La chaim!”

But the conservative right wing of the Christian church has already denounced any such characterizations of Jesus being an over-eater who liked food too, too much. They point out that he surely would not have been able to walk on the water if he was *significantly* overweight. They would also shoot down the theory that when he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey it was because he was so stuffed that he couldn’t walk! (Wouldn’t he have collapsed the back of the poor animal?) Finally, the command of Jesus, which instituted Communion (bread and wine) being “Do this in remembrance of me!” as only mere coincidence. They see these as unholy inferences made by theologians with an appetite to connect unrelated dots.

Whether Jesus was or wasn’t chubby will probably be debated in the years to come. Approximately 27% of American church-goers are obese. A survey of these faithful found they would warmly embrace the idea of Jesus with a belly. Some volunteered that they could more easily pray to a plump Savior who “could lose a few” rather than a non-plump one. Also, they’d see God as less judgmental of their weight and other issues in their life.

In conclusion, the upcoming conference will detail their innovative view of scripture. The JAIA adherents believe that a “more down to earth savior is better for everyone.” They hope that the updated PR of a “fat and happier Jesus will be here to stay!” It worked for Buddha why not Jesus?

Another story from REAL LIFE (that I made up!) This parody news story is for amusement. Any similarity to real people, places or things is fictitious and not to be taken as fact.