

# ***Not Quite Right News from Mark Golden™***

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## Was Jesus Incapable of Stubbing a Toe?

Chicago, Illinois

Capable or incapable? You might wonder as did the scholars at the Center for Theological Conundrums annual conference, which met in Chicago this year. They recently published their findings on this most curious and ancient enigma. Moses, Jesus, Mohamed and Buddha were examined as part of CTC's current "Spiritual giant or just the guy next door?" series. Jesus Christ and his toes were singled out for the Monday morning seminar and panel discussion. Conundrum scholars joined Early Church Fathers, who had debated this topic ruthlessly in ancient Rome.

One key passage cited was Luke 19: 39 and 40, "Some of the Pharisees told Jesus, 'Teacher, rebuke your disciples.' He answered, 'I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the *rocks* would cry out.'" The idea of rocks crying out in praise to Jesus is poetic and startling imagery. But, does it imply that only those select *rocks* in particular, were pro-toes and chummy feet friendly allies?

Another key verse was Matthew 4:6, "The devil said to Jesus, 'If you are the Son of God, jump off the top of the Temple, because the Scriptures say, "God will command his angels to help you, and their hands will catch you, so that you will not hit your foot on a *rock*.'" Here we have *rocks* as dangerous anti-feet, toe woe, and requiring angelic intervention.

Arguments ensued as to whether such verses should be taken literally or figuratively. Did a rock mean a *rock* or not? And, if Jesus was divine, wouldn't he have had some kind of supernatural radar or hypersensitivity to discern unstable *rocks* in his path and so avoid them?

It was also pointed out that Jesus could stop a severe storm with only a word. But, could he have played basketball? Would he need to learn the game and then practice to gain the necessary skills?

As an aside, scholars questioned: "Did Jesus ever hit his thumb with a hammer while doing carpentry?" Some set forth this hypothetical situation: "Only if one of his younger brothers bumped him by accident, otherwise no." And if so, did he shout out in pain, "Jesus Christ!"? Probably not. Perhaps, a hearty "Oy vey!" or "Oy, my Habakkuk!" This line of reasoning strongly divided the attendees. Yet, they all agreed that—however it came about—if Jesus did have unexpected pain, his reactions would've been holy, no cussing, no cursing. Yet, this

reasoning raised another point. “Did he ever have the common cold?” Which raised another point, “Can God make a *rock* so big that even he couldn’t lift it?”

No surprise, the now heated anti-stub camp merged with the now heated and newly formed anti-thumb camp – the battle lines were not only drawn, but grew deeper and wider.

Akin to that line of reasoning was applied to Jesus in his off-hours playing musical chairs (a favorite Jewish pastime), with his 12 disciples. Did he know when the music would stop and what chair to hover close to? If so, was that insider knowledge cheating?

Another cited Scripture. Hebrews 4:15 states, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our *weaknesses*, but one who has been tempted in *every way* as we are, yet without sin.” This Scripture posed an insightful paradox. Could this mean that Jesus’ ten-toed humanness indeed suffered by stubbing and or otherwise, just like us?

Anti-stubbers saw Jesus injuring a toe as something “only sinners” would/could do. Being without sin, he was “incapable” and thoroughly stub-free. They asserted that “nothing was accidental in his unique life, and so he prevented any and all mishaps while bearing a subdued smile.”

But stubbers touted that Hebrews clearly taught Jesus was susceptible to all human frailties. They claimed it “wasn’t a sin to make a mistake or stub one or all toes – repeatedly through life.” Stubbers shocked anti-stubbers by comfortably asserting that even “Mary had stretch marks and still bears them in heaven.”

One attendee questioned, “Just when did toe centric protective footwear become available – and would Jesus have *needed* or merely wanted to purchase a pair for the new style?”

The discussion turned into a raucous debate with occasional bawdy name-calling. As the volatile atmosphere rose, anti-stubbers cynically accused stubbers, “You must also think Jesus was subject to Murphy’s Law\* and Judas is the proof!”

Out of control, the opposition grumbled and rudely shot back, “Well, Jesus said he didn’t come to abolish the *Law* – so there!” The CDC president pounded his gavel for order. A ten-minute recess followed.

Walking out of the room, one person stubbornly said to no one in particular, “Did baby Jesus ever have a dirty diaper, answer me that?” Another person questioned, “Did a divinely confident Jesus carry all of his eggs in one basket? If so, did he teach his disciples to *not* do the same? I’m just sayin’.”

The Center for Theological Conundrums conference ended with a 50/50 split. Anti-stubbers (incapable) firmly held to no banged-up and ten always looking divine toes. Stubbers (capable) embraced ten calloused, scratched, and sometimes smelly toes with nails perhaps overdue for a trim.

Murphy's Law states: "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong."

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