

Star Wars Reflection on Ascension

How on earth do I attempt to explain this one? Joel likes Star Wars! Joel really likes Star Wars! When Tim and I were planning a service for the Sunday nearest Ascension we were wondering how on earth to tell and attempt to explore the story of the Ascension with all ages worshipping together? To be honest it is a story we as adults struggle with. Then I remembered a strange scene in the IV Star Wars movie where Obi Wan Kenobi takes on Darth Vader and seems to allow himself to be killed, and then appears in a different form at key moments in Luke Skywalker's life. So I asked Joel if he would help me to write and read out a reflection on the specific scene from the movie (which we watched during the service). Joel loved the idea and proceeded to write the whole thing (including my part of the script). Joel needless to say had no trouble relating Star Wars to the Biblical story or to his faith.

Watch Star Wars IV 381.26:26 – 391.30:10 [Scene 38]

Clare: So Joel, I don't understand. Why did Obi Wan Kenobi put his Light Sabre in front of him and stop fighting? Why did he let Darth Vader kill him?

Joel: Because, Obi Wan Kenobi knew that by allowing himself to be killed he will always be able to be with Luke Skywalker no matter what. Obi Wan says to Darth Vader, "If you kill me I shall be more powerful than you can possibly imagine".

Clare: I'm still not getting this – If Obi Wan Kenobi died then where did his body go – it just seemed to disappear?

Joel: He went up to heaven, but part of himself was left on earth.

Clare: And I'm sure I heard a voice, was that Obi Wan and if so how can he speak when he is dead?

Joel: Yes it was Obi Wan and like God, part of him is left back on earth so Luke Skywalker can hear him when he really needs his help. Here he tells Luke to run but later on he appears to Luke a bit like a hologram to give Luke encouragement and advice.

Clare: At the end of the scene, Luke is really upset because Obi Wan is dead. But if Obi Wan is still with him why is he sad?

Joel: Because Luke doesn't know Obi Wan is still with him like we sometimes don't know God is with us. He's sad because Obi Wan was his close friend and he won't be with him everyday any more. So Luke is sad, even though part of Obi Wan is still with him.