

Being on Cloud 9...or 29 ...or 99

"After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight"

Acts Ch 1 v 9

When we are on cloud 9 we are extremely happy with that feeling of euphoria. Hopefully we have all been there at some point in our lives, with that extra special present, seeing a long lost relation or passing those exams which we worked so hard for. The world seems a wonderful and beautiful place, you want this feeling to go on for ever and ever. It is a moment full of joy.

It doesn't last, things go back to normal but I hope that the moment was enjoyed because they don't happen very often.

14th May 2015 is Ascension Day, it is the day that Christians celebrate Jesus returning to heaven.

Jesus was taken up to heaven but was he on cloud 9?

Jesus had spent over thirty years on this planet. He had grown up from a lowly start, been exiled into Egypt before growing up in Galilee. He had lived with his earthly family, Mary and Joseph and his brothers and sisters. He worked for three years before being crucified, he rose again from the dead and he now was being taken up to heaven on a cloud.

It was certainly a point in his life of euphoria because

He was seeing his long lost relative.

He had not been with his Father in heaven for over 30 years, he would be reunited with him. Jesus had prayed and talked with him during his time on earth. I see this as something like Jesus talking to his Father on the telephone. Imagine talking to a parent for 30 years and then finally seeing them.

He had completed his work here on earth.

Jesus had preached, healed, befriended, given back life and upset those in authority. He had shown people God's work here on earth. He had trained up his Disciples, there wasn't much left that he could do. His work was complete, there must have been some sense of achievement.

He had that extra special present.

Unlike us receiving that extra special present, Christ was to give that extra special present. He knew that 10 days later that the Holy Spirit would be sent to earth at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit would fill the Disciples allowing them to carry on God's work.

The world seemed beautiful

The world seemed beautiful because Jesus could see heaven as well as earth, God creation would have been spread before him. He was the one bringing heaven and earth together, just as he had tried to do throughout his ministry. He had spent three years trying to bring the Kingdom of God to us humans on earth.

Jesus was raised up to heaven on a cloud, he must have felt like he was on cloud 9 but Jesus is God the Son. He had the advantage that he was being raised up to heaven, so not only would he have felt good but he was physically raised up too. He had so many things to be pleased about.

So what number cloud would he have been on?

Margaret Young
Volunteer Chaplain, Wythenshawe Campus