

July 8, 2020

Today it was my privilege to preside at the funeral of Jon Swanson which you could have learned by reading the newspaper and if you did that you would have seen that his family thought it important to note in his obituary the fact that, "He was a kind and compassionate man, and when someone cried, he cried with them."

In 50 years of "doing" funerals I cannot recall ever seeing that a man's loved ones took note of his tears. I was deeply touched by that and by the details of his life shared in a brief and distanced conversation with his family.

As we go forward in this painful and difficult task of finding meaning in our individual and collective lives, I hope that more of us find the freedom to share tears with one another as the spiritual significance of tears is that we are beginning to see a new heaven and a new earth as we hear from the Book of Revelation, Chapter 21, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more."

We are not expecting miracles, we are expecting compassion and we need tears to find that.