

‘Missing the Boat’

Reflection for Week of July 20, 2020

In the midst of the challenges and darkness of these times, are we missing unexpected wonders? What keeps us from seeing clearly?

Suggested Music: [The Water is Wide – David Kauffman \(click here\)](#)

Missing the Boat

It is not so much that the boat passed
and you failed to notice it.

It is more like the boat stopping
directly outside your bedroom window,
the captain blowing the signal-horn,
the band playing a rousing march.

The boat shouted, waving bright flags,
its silver hull blinding in the sunlight.

But you had this idea you were going by train.
You kept checking the time-table,
digging for tracks.

And the boat got tired of you,
so tired it pulled up the anchor
and raised the ramp.

The boat bobbed into the distance,
shrinking like a toy—
at which point you probably realized
you had always loved the sea.

-- Naomi Shihab-Nye
from *Different Ways to Pray*



After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” -- *John 21: 1-7*



For Your Reflection:

What ideas and expectations do you hold that might be blinding you from seeing beauty or new invitations and opportunities?

What practice might you bring into your life that will keep you from missing unexpected wonders that might even be as close as outside your window?

Concluding Prayer

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory be to God who calls us to not miss the boat, nor the beauty and wonder of life that beckons to us even in the dark times. Amen.