

# THE RIVERBOAT STOPPED

A young boy happened upon an old man who was fishing in the mighty Mississippi River.

Immediately, the lad began to ply the aged fisherman with a myriad of questions as only young boys can do. With the patience of the ages, the old man answered each inquiry.



Suddenly, their conversation was interrupted by the shrill whistle of the majestic *River Queen* paddling relentlessly down the river. The sight of the ship, gleaming and splashing spray in the sunlight, caused the surprised spectators along the bank to stare in awe and appreciation.

Then, above the noise of the paddlewheel was heard the small boy's voice calling across the water: "Let me ride! Let me ride!"

The old man turned to the boy and tried to calm him down, explaining that the *River Queen* was too important a ship to stop and give rides to little boys.

The youngster cried out all the more, "Let me ride!"

The old man's eyes bulged in disbelief as the great ship pulled for shore and a gangplank was lowered.

In a flash, two young feet scampered up and onto the deck. The ship, with its new cargo safely on board, began to pull back into the main stream. The old man continued to stare after the ship.

Suddenly, a shock of blonde hair appeared above the rail. It was quickly followed by two blue eyes, a button nose, and cherub lips.

"Mister," the boy said, "I knew this ship would stop for me. The captain is my father!"

And that made all the difference.

You have a Heavenly Father who loves you and has your best interests at heart. He even sent His only Son to die for you on a cruel cross so that He could have eternal fellowship with you.

(more)

Wherever you may be on this journey called life, He is ready to pick you up and take you into the safety of His forever family through belief in Christ.

And that *really* makes all the difference!

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter