

A Rescue On A Washington State Ferry



The loading ramp of the super ferry was hoisted up, and with its engines rumbling, the ship pulled away from the dock, carrying close to three hundred cars, and a multitude of foot passengers. Sea Gulls floating on the air currents, followed the ship out into open waters. The birds watched as people walked on the upper deck hoping someone would throw a crust of bread their way.

Part way across Puget Sound, miles from shore, the captain slowed the vessel to check something in the engines. At this time, a man and his dog got out of their car to stretch their legs. The man reached into the car to grab the leash. He thought the dog, a blue-healer used in hunting, would wait for him. He was wrong. No sooner had he taken his eyes off the dog to look for the leash, when the dog spotted the birds following the boat, and with a bound took off running towards the birds.

He ran to the back of the boat, ducked under the steel cable that acted like a fence, and jumped out into the water.

At this point, the captain unaware anything was wrong cranked up the power in the engines and the ship got underway again. A man standing at the back of the ship called out over the deep drumming beat of the engines, Dog overboard!

The owner of the dog heard the shout and looked to the spot where dog was supposed to be. Oh no! he cried out as he realized it was his dog in the water. He ran to the back of the ship. He looked for the dog in the water and didnt see it. A man from the upper deck pointed out into the distance.

Without hesitating, the owner of the dog found a life saving ring on the wall, took it down, and hurled it in the direction of the dog. Then with a running start he leapt into the water. The icy cold of the water shocked him. With strong strokes he swam out to the ring and called out to his dog.

Bystanders on the ferry raced to tell the captain a man and his dog were overboard. He instantly stopped the ferry and ordered the ships dingy with a small motor into the water. A couple of well-trained crewmembers drove the small boat out to the man, and hauled him into their craft. Then they went searching for the dog, and rescued it too.

Later, back on the ferry, all wrapped up in a blanket, and sipping hot coffee, the man thanked his rescuers, and then asked if they would have stopped the ship if they knew just a pet was overboard. One of the ships crew answered Yes, even for a pet we would have stopped the ship to rescue it.

The blue-heeler dog would have perished out there in the deep water if someone hadn't come to its rescue. His master certainly loved him.

God certainly loves us too. God's love is so amazing because of the way he reaches out to perishing sinners. Into our world of strife, he sent his Son. With no hesitation on his part the Lord Jesus left the glories of heaven and came to this troubled earth to reveal his Father's love to us. Knowing the pain that coming to save us would cost him, he didn't pause to wonder if we were worth it.

Almost every step of his life down here was resisted by sinful men who had no heart for God. He healed the sick, preached the gospel, and lived a life of complete devotion to God which no other man ever did. For the goodness he showed to mankind he was rewarded by them with evil. He was taken by cruel hands and nailed to a cross.

At the cross, the only just man who ever lived, died for the unjust, For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God. (1Pet.3.18).

The one who filled heaven with his glory went all the way into the poverty of a shameful death on the cross so that we might have true riches, For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich.(2 Cor.8.9).

This man who lived a perfect life and never sinned, was forsaken by God on the cross for the sins his creatures had committed. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Cor. 5.21).

Now because of his death on the cross no one needs to perish but all can be saved by trusting in him. That whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John3.15)

A crewmember answered the rescued man and said, Yes, even for a dog we would have stopped the ship.

And if you were to approach the throne of God and ask, Did you send your Son to die even for me? Praise God, the answer for each one of us would be a resounding, Yes. So whether you are a child or adult, girl or boy, from the east or the west, you can believe with all confidence that Christ died for you. Christ dying for us is what makes his love so amazing.

What will you do with the one who died for you? Oh that you might believe the wonderful love God has for a perishing world and take Christ as your Savior at once!

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