

## Clarence Carter "The Court Room"

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The Georgia courtroom was crowded  
As Ellie May took the stand  
She was accusing Reverend Joe Henry  
Of being a no good preaching man

She said, the Reverend  
Partook of my lovely body  
The Reverend said, she lies  
The jury said, now listen  
I'll do the talking and  
The courts will justify

The prosecuting attorney  
Started pacing the floor  
Sweating and making threats

The judge's wife, sitting  
Back there in the back row  
Said, hey, Judge, I'll check

Cause Reverend Joe Henry  
Is a good man  
He preached all over  
The bottom land

He spoke so a  
Child could understand  
And there oughta be a  
Whole lot more good folks  
Like Reverend Joe Henry  
Preaching in the bottom land

The jury said, shut up, Sally  
Will the defense take it's case  
Defense walked to the jury box  
With a stern look on his face

One by one  
He pointed to the jurors  
And said, the Reverend  
Picked cotton by your side

Blessed your child  
When it was born  
And he cried  
When your mama died

Then he turned his back on the jury  
And his face was getting awful red  
He pounded his fists so hard  
He shook the room and he  
Whirled around and he said

Lookie here, Reverend  
Joe Henry is a good man  
He preached all over  
The bottom land

He spoke so a  
Child could understand  
And there oughta be a  
Whole lot more good folks  
Like Reverend Joe Henry  
Preaching in the bottom land

Somebody cussed and said  
Hang him, he guilty  
The judge said, now listen here

If there's one more outburst  
Of emotion like that  
I'll have this courtroom cleared  
Yes, I will

Then the foreman  
Addressed the court  
And said, I've known the  
Reverend all his life

He got shot up so bad  
Back there in the war  
That he couldn't even  
Take him a wife  
You know what I'm talking about

Now I swore I'd never tell a soul  
But the Reverend's life is on the line  
And there ain't no way  
On God's green Earth that  
The Reverend could commit this crime

Cause Reverend Joe Henry  
Is a good man

He preached all over  
The bottom land

He spoke so a  
Child could understand  
And there oughta be a  
Whole lot more good folks  
Like Reverend Joe Henry  
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