

Johnny Cash "The Reverend Mr. Black"

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He rode easy in the saddle
He was tall and lean and at first you'd a thought
nothing
But a streak of mean could make a man look so down
right strong
But one look in his eyes and you knowed you was
wrong

He was a mountain of a man
And I want you to know
He could preach hot hell or freezin' snow
He carried a Bible in a canvas sack

And folks just called him
The Reverend Mr. Black, he was poor as a beggar
But he rode like a king
Sometimes in the evening, I'd hear him sing

I gotta walk that lonesome valley, I got to walk it by
myself
Oh, nobody else can walk it for me, I got to walk it by
myself
You got to walk that lonesome valley, you got to walk it
by yourself
Oh, nobody else can walk it for you, you got to walk it
by yourself

If ever I could have thought this man in black was soft
And had any yellow up his back
I gave that notion up the day a lumberjack came in
And it wasn't to pray

Yeah, he kicked open the meeting house door
And he cussed everybody up and down the floor
Then, when things got quiet in the place
He walked up and cusses in the preacher's face

He hit that Reverend like a kick of a mule
And to my way of thinkin' it took a real fool
To turn the other face to that lumber jack
But that's what he did, The Reverend Mr. Black

He stood like a rock, a man among men
And he let that lumberjack hit him again
And then with a voice as quiet as could be
He cut him down like a big oak tree when he said

I gotta walk that lonesome valley, I got to walk it by
myself
Oh, nobody else can walk it for me, I got to walk it by
myself
You got to walk that lonesome valley, you got to walk it
by yourself
Oh, nobody else can walk it for you, you got to walk it
by yourself

It's been many years since we had to part
And I guess I learned his ways by heart
I can still hear his sermon's ring
Down in the valley where he used to sing

I followed him, yes, sir and I don't regret it
And I hope I will always be a credit to his memory
'Cause I want you to understand
The Reverend Mr. Black was my old man

I gotta walk that lonesome valley, I got to walk it by
myself
Oh, nobody else can walk it for me, I got to walk it by
myself
You got to walk that lonesome valley, you got to walk it
by yourself
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