

## Kingston Trio

### "The Reverend Mr. Black"

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Billy Edd Wheeler/Jed Peters

(Spoken) 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:

Chorus:

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.

(2nd & 3rd times) 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 and then when things got quiet in the place, he walked up and cussed in the preacher's face! He hit that Reverend like a kick of a mule and to my way of thinkin' it took a pure fool to turn the other cheek to that lumber jack, but that's what he did, The Reverend Mr. Black. He stood like a rock, a man among men then he let that lumberjack hit him again, and then with a voice as kind as could be, he cut him down like a big oak tree when he said:

(Chorus)

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!

(Chorus)

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