

# Reverend Mr. Black

The Kingston Trio

He rode easy in the saddle, he was tall and lean  
At first you thought nothing but a streak of mean  
Could make a man look so downright 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 could hear him sing

"I got to 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"

If ever I could have thought that 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 lumberjack  
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

"You've got to walk that lonesome valley  
You've got to walk it by yourself  
Oh, nobody else can walk it for you  
You've 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 sermons ring  
Down in the valley where he used to sing

I followed him, "Yes, sir", and I don't regret it  
Hope that I'll always be a credit to his memory  
'Cause I want you to understand  
The Reverend Mr. Black was my old man

You've got to walk that lonesome valley  
You've got to walk it by yourself

Oh, nobody else can walk it for you  
You've got to walk it by yourself

You've got to walk that lonesome valley  
You've got to walk it by yourself  
Oh, nobody else can walk it for you  
You've got to walk it by yourself