

The Funeral (Niagara Falls, May 4, 1952) [Live]

Hank Williams

I was walking in Savannah past a church, decayed and dim
When slowly through the window came a plaintive funeral hymn
My sympathy awakened and a wonder quickly grew
'Til I found myself environed in a little colored pew
Out front a colored couple sat in sorrow nearly wild
On the altar was a casket and in the casket was a child
I could picture him while living, curly hair protruding lips
I'd seen perhaps a thousand in my hurried southern trips
Then rose a sad, old colored preacher from his little
wooden desk
With a manner sort of awkward and countenance grotesque
The simplicity and shrewdness in his Ethiopian face
Showed the wisdom and the ignorance of a crushed, undying race
And he said, "Now don't be weepin' for this
pretty bit of clay
For the little boy who lived there has done gone and run away
He was doing very finely and he 'ppreciates your love
But his sho nough father wanted him in the big house up above
The Lord didn't give you that baby, by no
hundred thousand miles
He just think you need some sunshine and he lent it for a while
And he let you keep and love him 'til your hearts were bigger grown
And these silver tears you're shedding now, are just interest on the loan
Just think my poor dear mourners
creeping long on sorrows way
What a blessed picnic this here baby got today
Your good fathers and good mothers crowd the little fella round
In the angels 'tender garden of the big plantation ground
And his eyes they brightly sparkle at the pretty things
he view
But a tear came and he whispered, "I want my parents too"
Then the angel's chief musicians teach that little boy a song
Says if only they be faithful, they'll soon be comin' 'long
And so my poor dear mourners, let your hearts with
Jesus rest
And don't go to criticizn' the one what knows the best
He has give us many comforts He's got the right to take away
To the Lord be praised in glory, now and ever, let us pray

Songwriters

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