

GOOD FRIDAY – March 30, 2018

It's Friday, but Sunday's Comin'!

S.M. Lockridge was a well-known African-American pastor and preacher. Interestingly enough, his first and middle names were “Shadrach” and “Meshach,” the names, along with “Abednego,” that are the names of the three young men who survived the fiery furnace in the book of Daniel.

Born in 1913, and the oldest of eight children, Lockridge was the son of a Baptist minister. A graduate of Bishop College in Marshall, Texas, he first worked for two years as a high school English teacher before experiencing a call to ministry. In 1942, he accepted his first pastorate, and then in 1952 he was named pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in San Diego, California where he served until retiring in 1993 at the age of 80. He died on April 4, 2000.

During his 41 years at Calvary Baptist, it is estimated that his ministry reached more than 100,000 people. He frequently preached at crusades, revivals, religious rallies, and evangelistic conferences all around the world.

He also served in key regional, state, and national positions with the Baptist Church serving as the Moderator of the Progressive Baptist District Association, President of the California Missionary Baptist State Convention, and as the first president of the National Missionary Baptist Convention of America.

Lockridge was also active in the civil rights movement and, under his leadership, Calvary Baptist hosted several of its key leaders, including Martin Luther King Jr.

But it was, perhaps, as a *preacher* that Lockridge was most well-known and best remembered. One of his messages was a memorable Good Friday meditation that I'd like to share with you now. The message is entitled: "It's Friday, but Sunday's Comin'!" (*Pause*)

It's Friday...
Jesus is praying
Peter's a sleeping
Judas is betraying...
But Sunday's comin'

It's Friday...
Pilate's struggling
The Council is conspiring
The crowd is vilifying...
They don't even *know*...
That Sunday's comin'

It's Friday...
The disciples are running like sheep without a shepherd
Mary's crying
Peter is denying
But they don't know...
That Sunday's comin'

It's Friday...
The Romans beat my Jesus
They robe him in scarlet
They crown him with thorns
But they don't know...
That Sunday's comin'

It's Friday...
See Jesus walking to Calvary
His blood dripping...
His body stumbling...
And his spirit's burdened...
But you see, it's only *Friday*
Sunday's comin'

It's Friday...
The world's winning
People are sinning
And evil's grinning

It's Friday...
The soldiers nail my Savior's hands to the cross...
They nail my Savior's *feet* to the cross...
And then they raise him up...
Next to criminals

It's Friday...
But let me tell you something
Sunday's comin'

It's Friday...
The disciples are questioning
What has happened to their King?
And the Pharisees are celebrating
That their scheming has been achieved
But they don't *know*...
It's only Friday
Sunday's comin'

It's Friday...
He's hanging on the cross
Feeling forsaken by his Father
Left alone and dying
Can nobody save him?
Oh...
It's *Friday*
But Sunday's comin'

It's Friday...
The earth trembles
The sky grows dark
My King yields his spirit...

It's Friday...
Hope is lost
Death has won
Sin has conquered
and Satan's just a laughin'

It's Friday...
Jesus is buried
A soldier stands guard
And a rock is rolled into place...

...But it's Friday...
It is only Friday...
Sunday is a comin'!

(Pause in silence before announcing the hymn of the day)