

Crossing The Bar
Alfred Lord Tennyson

PREPARED BY	
DATE	

1
2 Sunset and evening star,
3 And one clear call for me!

4 And may there be no moaning of the bar,
5 When I put out to sea,

6
7 But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
8 Too full for sound and foam,
9 When that which drew from out the boundless deep
10 Turns again home.

11
12 Twilight and evening bell,
13 And after that the dark!

14 And may there be no sadness of farewell,
15 When I embark;

16
17 For tho' from out our bourne of Time & Place
18 The flood may bear me far,
19 I ~~hope~~^{will} see my Pilot face to face
20 When I have cross't the bar.
21
22

(Notes I spoke from)

(1)

Mary Duke, an elderly black woman, was employed by East Nashville Free Will Baptist Church to keep the nursery during services.

She held that position for years seeing babies grow up and then kept their ~~bebbies~~ babies.

When Mary died an elderly black ~~man~~ ^{minister} and Dr. Ken Riggs, a friend of mine held her funeral. The black minister began --- "Today I want to speak to you about the dash." (Pause) The audience looked around - wondering - "you see, he continued, when you look at a tombstone the date of birth and the date of death is not nearly as important as the dash - That little mark in between is how they lived their life. That is what is important - That little dash determines eternity." 1935-2013 will

1935-2013

* Read (Crossing The Bar)

1935-2013 will today we speak the dash

Note: We gather here today to honor the memory of and pay our respects to ~~Bro. John~~ a very remarkable man - Bro Johnny Williamson -

* Read A Child's Perspective
This man Read Miller

Whenever I'm asked to give ~~a~~ a
eulogy at a funeral - I immediately
start thinking of a theme -
something that will characterize that
person - capture and give a
feel - to capsule who they are -

As I began ^{preparing} this eulogy - so many
themes came to mind - I wanted
to go this way & that way -
Finally, I exclaimed "Who can
in a 15 or 20 minute message?
Capsule Johnny Williamson?"

~~When Larry called me early Sunday
morning I hung up the phone
& into my mind came the thought
Johnny was certainly a Man For
All Seasons -~~

~~I, at the moment, was thinking
of him being an Outside Man -
Winter, Spring, Summer, & Fall -
Outside working -~~

~~Then I thought of Robert Boltz's
play entitled A Man For All
Seasons that was made into a movie -~~

~~I looked up a summary of the play
to refresh my mind -~~

~~Sir Thomas More was Chancellor of England during the 16th century under King Henry VIII.~~

~~King Henry wanted to divorce his wife & remarry - He wanted Sir Thomas More to agree & speak out in his favor.~~

~~He refused & ultimately was put to death.~~

~~The synopsis reads - " ... men like Sir Thomas More, who loves life yet have the moral fiber to lay down their lives for their principles, are found in every century."~~

~~I view Johnny Williamson as a man with 5 stars moral fiber. A man who would rather die before than to sacrificing his principles.~~

A woman whose funeral I ^{once} held had written on a note for me - "When I die I want there to be a parade with me riding up front!"

Today is to be a celebration of Johnny's homegoing. He certainly was not one to seek the limelight - He was very ^{humble} ~~was~~ ^{with no pretensions} ~~and unpretentious~~

As down to earth a fellow as I've
ever met.

but today we are going to force
him to ride up front in his
parade
; take the seat of honor.

If I had to choose one word to
describe Johnny Williamson it
would be "charisma"

Because charisma is undefinable -
psychologist + sociologist have for years
attempted to ~~to~~ determine - what
is that attraction, that power,
that magnet that draws people -

We don't have time to use all the
words we think might define Johnny's
Charisma - but he had it!

A humble man, sincerely loving
and caring about people -
An astounding down-to-earth quality

A man with amazing listening skills -

Conversing with many people is like
trying to talk to the "Energizer bunny"
They look around seeing what all is going
on - you know they are not really listening to you

(3)

But when I spoke to this man he looked and listened so intently that you felt like looking away - for fear he might see into your very soul.

A knowledgeable man with a burning desire to learn right up to the end -

~~He~~ I visited Johnny on Friday before he died early Sunday morning -

The main topic of conversation was the Hebrew and Greek languages - Bro. Johnny used the term Agapee a Greek word describing God's Love -

He wanted to know if I had studied both - I told him I had taken 2 years of Greek

And he remarked "I wish I had studied Hebrew & Greek"

Seldom does a man give his own obituary, but Bro. Johnny gave me his a few weeks ago -

He was just out of the hospital & I stopped by to see him. Benny was staying with him that day -

I enquired "Where's Bro. Johnny"?

Penny looked a little dismayed as he said, "you just missed him, he pointed and said he went down that road on a tractor a minute ago - He's not too good at listening to me."

Does that sound familiar?

I drove ~~down~~ down the road + found him. He pulled the tractor up - turned it off and we began our talk -

"What in the world are you doing?"
I asked.

"Ah, I just thought I'd break up this little ole patch - It's just right for plowing - well, maybe a little too wet in spots."

Bro. Johnny, Larry tells me you're having trouble sleeping.

Joe, I feel like I'm smothering - I'm afraid to go to sleep. I'm afraid I may not wake up.

Bro. Johnny - what difference would that make?

(4)

He gave me a slight chuckle & said -
"Well, none really, but there's
some people I want to tell
good bye."

We both agreed that all of us need
those things taken care of.

We talked about the Lord Jesus
as we often did -

All of a sudden he stopped &
Johnny Williamson style looked
me straight in the eyes and
said "Joe, you know what,

Jesus suits me to a T.

I remarked

Johnny, that is good! I'm going
to develop a sermon around that -

I've heard that Ole saying most of
my life - paying no particular attention
to it - giving it no other
meaning than "it really suits me"

I go home - look up I

'T' is the 20th letter of the English Alphabet -

Derived from the Hebrew TAW

as a noun - symbol for absolute

as an adj. means to perfection - exactly

~~Jesus~~
Jesus Suits me To A T
means

Jesus is my absolute
He is exactly perfection -

Wow!

Does that sound like Acts 17:28

"For in him we live, and move
and have our being."
(God)

Rom 14:8-9 "For whether we live, we
live unto the Lord; and whether
we die, we die unto the Lord;
whether we live therefore, or die,
we are the Lord's.

For this end Christ both died,
and rose, and revived, that he might
be the Lord both of the dead and

(5)

living."

(or)

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ
nevertheless I live yet not I
but Christ liveth in me.

(or)

Gal. 6:14 God forbid that I should
glory

(or)

Phil 1:21 "For me to live is Christ
to die is gain."

Oh + on we could go with verses
from God showing how completely
our lives are to be entwined
with the Lord Jesus -
so bleeded in Christ -
so, a part of Him.

Note! If it really is that way in
our walk with the Lord - then
we can say with honest sincerity
and assurance as Johnny did -
Jesus Suits Me To A T !

I can almost hear Johnny
saying to me today -
Joe, out in front of you are my

people - ^{ones I love so very much -} I want you to just
turn that statement I made around
and ask it as a question -

Does Jesus suit me to a T?
Is He really my Absolute?
Is He my exactly right one?
Does He perfectly, exactly suit me?

If your answer is yes - then
you have a wonderful place to
go - you have everything

~~If He is not your Absolute not
your exactly right perfect one.~~
Then, you have nothing,!

Read - A child's Perspective
of her Dad -
by Phyllis about Johnny

Insert



norwoodchapel norwoodchapel <norwoodchapel@watvc.com>

(no subject)

1 message

Phyllis Olive <phyllisolive@remax.net>
 To: norwoodchapel@watvc.com

Mon, Jul 1, 2013 at 5:00 PM

Comfortable and at ease with all people. the disadvantaged and those of higher social standing
 But Especially had a love and servants heart for those less fortunate. Never turning anyone away who
 dropped by his home asking for help. He showed respect and kindness to everyone, no matter their title
 or position.

On any given day a wide range of friends may stop by his farm to visit. Kids who fish in his pond or ride the
 horses, a friend struggling with addiction, Forester friends from his Logging business, neighbors down on
 their luck, and once even the Editor of Southern Living magazine stopped by and of course Dad gave him
 veggies from the garden. In return Dad received a complimentary subscription.
 Daddy loved people. people were drawn to Daddy.

Successful businessman. But greatest success was a Daddy to his 5 children Great love for his family.
 Strict disciplinarian who taught his sons and daughters the value of hard work. Even as adults he felt the
 need to guide, protect and even provide for them. great Protector and Provider.

I am always proud to say "I'm Johnny Williamson's daughter".

He's a real man, a man's man, who taught his sons to be real men. (And sure set the bar high for his
 daughter's husband's).

While he never told us to be perfect, he said we should try....do your best hoeing the vegetable garden,
 cutting the grass, and especially how you treat other people. We knew he had high expectations. We
 always wanted to make Daddy proud.

His iron will constantly pushed him to press on even through his physical limitations.

A man of contradictions. Strong. Yet gentle. Strict. But fair. Never read Emily Post book of Etiquette. But
 always gracious and caring to others. Rarely went to church but was deeply spiritual and had a great faith.
 Didnt speak loudly, but people stopped and listened when he spoke.

Jesus qualities. Quick to connect with people. Tilts toward the underdog. Strive to be perfect, but also
 shows grace to others.

Phyllis Olive
 Associate Broker/Owner
 RE/MAX Premiere Group
 Sent from my iPhone

6.

End with poem written for
bro. Johnny

& with Psalm 125:1-2
(quote)