

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

L. R. Scarborough, D. D., President

Seminary Hill, Texas

August 23, 1935.

Jeff D. Ray
Homiletics

Mr. Amon G. Carter,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Mr. Carter:

Our personal acquaintance is quite limited but "a touch of sorrow makes the whole world akin."

I know the intimate friendship existing between you and Will Rogers, and know how genuine must be your sorrow in the loss of such a friend. I say I know for three times in my life I have had your experience - once in the death of B.H. Carroll twenty years ago; once in the death of Fred W. Freeman three years ago; and once in the tragic death of my own son four years ago - three of the noblest and best friends any man ever had. These experiences qualify me to appreciate the sorrow that is yours in this tragic hour.

I do not agree with the all too prevalent idea that one whom we preachers call a "busy man of the world" does not need and would not be helped by, a word of sympathy even from a comparative stranger. On the other hand I realize how vain a thing it is to "gild a grief with words" however sincere and by whomsoever spoken.

I am writing not as a preacher but as a brother man simply because my heart prompts me to say a word assuring you of my sincere sympathy in the loss of such a devoted personal friend. I did not have the honor of a personal acquaintance with your friend - never saw him but once, but I admired him exceedingly for his genius and loved him sincerely for his big hearted humanitarianism and am deeply grieved by his tragic and apparently untimely call to the beyond.

In my sermon at Bryan last Sunday I said "The death of Will Rogers will in its trail of sorrow bring at least one much needed blessing to our land. It will mellow the hearts of all our people and bring us all closer together in sympathy each for the other in our problems, our frailties, our heart aches. Dead he yet speaketh."

May I say (without gush) that you have my heart's sincerest sympathy in the loss of your noble and devoted friend. And may I say (without cant) you have my earnest prayers that the good God, in ways we cannot understand, will help you in this time of your crying need of a type of help that no man can render.

Sincerely and cordially,

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Jeff. D. Ray