Swift Guitar Lessons
"Backwater Blues" By Bessie Smith

Verse 1 mixing strumming & shuffling techniques

A5 D5 E5 A5
When it rained five days and the sky turned dark as night
D5 D7 (D#dim7) A5
When it rained five days and the sky turned dark as night
E7 D7 - E7 A5 Turnaround
Then trouble's takin' place in the lowlands at night

Verse 2

A5 D5 E5 A7
I woke up this mornin', can't even get out of my door
D5 D7 (D#dim7) A5
I woke up this mornin', can't even get out of my door
E7 D7 E7 A5 Turnaround
There's enough trouble to make a poor girl wonder where she wanna go

Verse 3

A5 D5 E5 A5
Then they rowed a little boat about five miles cross the pond
D5 D7 (D#dim7) A5
Then they rowed a little boat about five miles cross the pond
E7 D7 E7 A5 Turnaround
I packed all my clothes, throwed 'em in, and they rowed me along

Verse 4

A5 D5 E5 A5
When it thunders and lightnin', and the wind begins to blow
D5 D7 (D#dim7) A5
When it thunders and lightnin', and the wind begins to blow
E7 D7 E7 A5 Turnaround
There's thousands of people, ain't got no place to go

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Verse 5

A5 D5 E5 A5
When it thunders and lightnin', and the wind begins to blow
D5 D7 (D#dim7) A5
When it thunders and lightnin', and the wind begins to blow
E7 D7 E7 A5 Turnaround
There's thousands of people, ain't got no place to go

Verse 6

A5 D5 E5 A5
And I went and stood up on some high old lonesome hill
D5 D7 (D#dim7) A5
And I went and stood up on some high old lonesome hill
E7 D7 E7 A5 Turnaround
Then looked down on the house were I used to live

Verse 7

This verse can serve as a chorus for a more modern arrangement.

A5 D5 E5 A5 Lick
Backwater blues done called me to pack my things and go
D5 D7 (D#dim7) A5
Backwater blues done called me to pack my things and go
E7 D7 E7 A5 Turnaround
'Cause my house fell down and I can't live there no more

Ready to Learn More Blues?
Try These Recommended Lessons & Courses

- 10 Part Solo Blues Guitar Series
- Truefire "One Man Jam - Blues Course
- Blues Guitar Crash Course (Beginner)
- My "Secret Weapon" Blues Lick (Soundslice)