

made clear with illustrations, such as the fact that the manna would come on six days of the week and none would come on the 7th day. And the fact that the manna that they gathered one day would rot if they kept it over night, but that what they gathered on the day before the Sabbath would keep through the Sabbath. God had given illustrations that He wanted His people here in the wilderness to follow His Sabbath law as a means of driving home to their hearts certain great truths He had stressed this. And here was a man who after all that went out and ignored, it. It was a preeminent sin. And it was not God's will that everyone who commits presumptuous sins should be stoned. Not by any means. But it was His will that in this particular case when the emphasis had just been laid on the presumptuous sins, and when it was so perfectly obvious to everybody that this man was one who was saying, Oh well that's what they say but I'm going to do what I feel like. I'll follow what I think is good rather than what God says. That an illustration should be given of how seriously God considered this. By this one man's being taken out and stoned for his breaking of the Sabbath day.

We cannot expect to deal justly with all people. We do not see their hearts. I believe the Bible teaches capital punishment, but I believe that capital punishment should be reserved for a very very few matters. I do not believe that it should be used otherwise, except in a very few special matters. But on those I think it is very definite it should be used. But God wanted that this lesson be driven home to these people.

Now someone else might say, That man went out and gathered sticks. He wasn't stoned. Why was it right that this man should lose his life that way? Well, we all die sometime. It is not such a terrible thing that one die sooner than another. We all deserve death for our sins, but God chooses in certain cases to make ~~ex~~ examples. He chooses in certain cases to drive truth home. And I believe that there is also the idea in relation to human law and God's law. God deals justly with all men. You cannot expect human beings to deal justly all through because we don't see the heart. We do our best to deal justly, but the ultimate purpose of human law ~~is~~ cannot be to punish; God punishes. The purpose of human law is to deter. The purpose of human law is to prevent evil, and I believe our Supreme Court has gone to an extreme of misunderstanding upon this point.