

The Sabbath-Breaker

Numbers 15

by Don Falkos

copyright 2016 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

The people of Israel went back into the desert.

Then the Lord had Moses remind them about the various sacrifices they were expected to make: burnt offerings (an aroma pleasing to the Lord), grain offerings, and drink offerings. Whether these sacrifices were made in conjunction with a special vow, as a freewill offering or as a festival offering, a fellowship offering or a sin offering, whatever the case may be, these sacrifices must be made in accordance with the instructions provided through Moses. Intentional and unintentional sin both required sacrifice. Individual and corporate sin both required sacrifice. Israelite and non-Israelite alike were expected to follow the same regulations.

One day a man was caught gathering wood on the Sabbath. He was taken to Moses and Aaron and the rest of the community for judgment. He was kept in custody because they didn't know what to do with him.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Take this Sabbath-breaker outside the camp and have the entire community stone him to death."

Moses gave the Lord's instructions to the people. They took the man outside the camp and stoned him to death.

Then the Lord commanded the Israelites, "Make tassels for the edges of your clothing. The movement of these tassels as you walk about will remind you to obey all of my commands instead of following your own desires. Only by following my commands can you live a holy life. I brought you out of Egypt to be your God. I am the Lord your God."