

# Numbers 15:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day.

## Analysis

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The incident of the Sabbath-breaker immediately follows laws about presumptuous sin (verses 30-31). His deliberate gathering of sticks on the Sabbath constituted 'high-handed' rebellion against God's explicit command. The severity of the punishment demonstrates that covenant violation, especially when willful and public, threatened the entire community's relationship with God.

## Historical Context

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This occurred during the wilderness period when God's holiness was being impressed upon Israel through dramatic judgments (Nadab and Abihu, Korah's rebellion, etc.). The Sabbath command was foundational to the covenant (Exodus 20:8-11), making its violation a direct challenge to God's authority.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does the holiness of God inform your understanding of obedience?

2. What 'small' sins might actually constitute 'high-handed' rebellion against known truth?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיַּמְצָא רַבָּבָה בְּמִדְבָּר יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל שְׁנָא לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
H1961 And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness H4057 they found  
H1121 H3478 H4672

וְאַנְשֵׁם אֲשֶׁר מִלְכָשׁ שְׁנָא לְבָנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשַׁבָּת  
a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath  
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