

locking him up in a cell for 35 to 40 years until he dies. I don't know what I would do if I were in that situation, whether I would want to be locked up like that for the rest of my life, knowing there's no hope, that I'm there forever until I die. I talked to a Warden at Angola and he told me that many of these people reach a point of desiring death and want to get it over with.

PREJEAN: I'm thinking of the Sonnier brothers. One got life, one got death. Eddie, the brother serving the life sentence has said to me more than once, "Pat died. It's over for him, but I live with this every day." And, you know, there have been some instances where juries deliberately chose a life sentence over the death penalty because they thought a life sentence would be greater punishment.

On the issue of revenge, there are many, of course, who do want pure revenge. I've found that with victims' families there's a form of social pressure which says that if you really loved the one who has been murdered, you express that love by demanding the death penalty. Here's an ultimate way of showing your love and you're not going for it? You must not have loved them very much.

EDWARDS: Yes, if you really loved your father or your mother, you'd be asking for their murderer to die. It's really hard and it takes a great deal of courage for a family member who has lost