

Refiner's Fire – How we Become People after God's Own Heart – Week Eleven

Falling Away from Christ

What Happens When We Don't Wait on God – 1 Samuel 27:1—28:2

Introduction: People in the refiner's fire are extremely vulnerable to losing patience with the idea of waiting on God especially for lengthy periods of time. Rather than staying in a posture of waiting, they cease to pray and head off in a direction that seems right at the moment. This is one example of what it means to fall away from Christ. And there are some huge downsides to this. Today, we examine a case study of what it means to fall away from Christ.

1. *HOW IT BEGINS – We fall away from Christ when we make decisions impulsively apart from prayer. 1 Samuel 27:1-7*

- A. David makes a decision that seems suspicious. 27:1-7
- B. Was this really the wrong thing to do?
- C. So why does David go to the Philistines? It's the issue of not wanting to wait on God.

2. *HOW IT PLAYS OUT – When we fall away from Christ we resort to spin and lies to maintain a dual life. 1 Samuel 27:8-12*

- A. On the one hand, it is possible to do some good things and for God to use us. 27:8-9
- B. On the other hand, when you're living far from Christ, you engage in compromise. 27:10-11
- C. But there is a cost for David: Achish thinks that he's getting a mercenary soldier for life. 27:12

3. *HOW IT ENDS – When we fall from Christ our dual lives will eventually catch up with us. 1 Samuel 28:1-2*

- A. An external crisis will throw us off guard: The Philistines gather for war against Israel. 28:1a
- B. A personal crisis will plunge us into anxiety: Achish recruits David for war and then demands his service for life. 28:1b
- C. An impossible situation presents itself: David has to lie and find a way out. 28:2b