

Difficult Decisions:

Week 1: When You Get Knocked Down

Introduction:

- A. Have you ever been knocked down by unpleasant and even very painful circumstances in life?
- B. This morning we begin a new series called *Difficult Decisions*. Over the course of the next few weeks we are going to look at different situations and see how we ought to respond in those circumstances.
- C. There will be plenty of times in our lives when we find ourselves knocked down by certain circumstances. In those moments, how will we respond? What will we do when we get knocked down?

Realize You Are In Good Company

- A. People throughout scripture have been knocked down by unpleasant and difficult circumstances.
- B. Joseph (Gen. 37:23-28, 36); Job (3:1-3; 11; 10:1); David (I Sam. 21:10-15); Hannah (I Sam. 1:8).
- C. God never promised us an easy life (Jn. 16:33). We are going to get knocked down.

When You Get Knocked Down: Will you choose to blame God or praise God?

- A. Instead of praising God we may be more inclined to blaming God.
- B. David said he would praise the Lord continually and that he wanted others to magnify the Lord with him (Psa. 34:1-3). David was going to praise and magnify God no matter what his circumstances were.
- C. We are to give God praise no matter the circumstances we find ourselves in (I Thess. 5:18; Acts 16:25).

The Importance of Praising God Even When We Get Knocked Down

- A. God is right there with us in our difficult circumstances. He will not leave us (Deut. 31:6; Isa. 41:13; Matt. 28:20).
- B. People are watching to see what our response will be (Acts 16:25).
- C. When people are watching our response, it presents us an opportunity to demonstrate our complete faith and trust in God. Paul used his sufferings for the advancement of the Gospel (Phil. 1:12-14).

Conclusion:

- A. We may get knocked down, but that doesn't mean we are going to be knocked out.
- B. You may find yourself laying on the ground this morning with a feeling of defeat. If so, trust God will carry you through whatever you are facing if you only turn yourself over completely to Him.