**Don’t Let the Devil Cut Your Link**

**Read:** Matthew 1:1-17

**Introduction:** (Illustrate with chandelier held by 42 links of chain). I have just read the names of 42 generations who were responsible to bring Christ to this earth in physical form. Satan knew each and every one of these individuals and their importance to the arrival of the savior. He made deliberate attempts to destroy each and every person in this chain. We are going to talk about 8 of them.

**Abraham** was told in Genesis 12:1 to leave his family behind but he took his dad and nephew along with him. Dad’s name was Terah which means: “wasted years.” For 75 years they wandered, getting nowhere, until Terah died. Satan is as happy if he can get you wasting your life as if he gets you to fall into horrible sin. **A wasted life is a disobedient life!**

**Isaac** was in his teens when God told Abraham to take him to Mount Moriah and offer him as a burnt offering to God. Abraham got up early and took his son and went. He did not understand this command but he knew the voice of God. (tell story of angels and demons as this drama unfolds). **You can be 100% obedient to God and your world seems to be crashing down around you. Keep on obeying God will not let you down.**

**Jacob**’s name meant liar and deceiver. He lived totally up to his name and in the process stripped his brother of his birthright and blessing. He fled to Uncle Labans house and marries his two daughters. He designs a way to steal his Uncles cattle and sheep and before his deceit can be discovered he flees home and finds himself between an angry Father-in-law and a vengeful brother. (story of meeting with angel). **Hang on to God for all you’re worth.**

**Thamar** (Tamar) had twins by incest with her Father-in-law **God will use you regardless of your past sins if you are willing to be used.**

**Rachab** (Rahab) is the harlot of Jericho. (significance of the red rope). **God may have to change your direction 100% to use you but He will do the work.**

**David** after Goliath and victory after victory; after God elevated him to the throne and blessed him over and over he sins by: 1). Looking on purpose 2). Lusting in his heart 3). Committing adultery 4). Trying to deceive Uriah 5). Getting Uriah drunk 6). Having Uriah murdered. (Priests turn backs). The message is clear that **a sincere repentant heart can find grace even when no one else believes in you.**

**Asa:** In purging idolatry from the land discovers that his own mother (the queen) has an idol in a grove. He kicks her out of the palace. **No tolerance for sin will dwell in one who is a link in God’s chain.**

**Joseph** chooses a bad, undeserved, reputation by being considered an immoral man by the community so that he can advance God’s agenda over his own. **To bring glory to God may cost your reputation.**

**Conclude:** What area is satan doing his work in, in your life? Altar call for those who want some extra welding on their link.