

# Maple Springs Baptist Church

Series: GOD is here.

Week 5: Unreliable Substitutes

**I wonder if we ever replace GOD with some unreliable substitute.**

Why is so little of life as satisfying as we crave? *Hevel*: "mist" or "vapor"

**ECCLESIASTES 1:13.** Solomon's goal was to try every path, explore every angle, and figure out what was the best way to be happy.

**Everything, even the best things, are hevel.**

**ECCLESIASTES 1:2:** in this life, everything is temporary, only briefly present.

**If you want lasting peace, joy, satisfaction, and happiness in this life, it might not be found in the places you assume.**

So, what are you pursuing to make you happy?

**We all share the same desire—to find something really good that really lasts.**

**Proverbs 19:22a.** Until you rest in the truth that **GOD is here**, your heart will be restless.

Jeremiah wept as he watched his neighbors worship gods that could not quench the thirst in their hearts. **JEREMIAH 2:13.**

We leave behind GOD's grace to find an alternative source to quench our thirst. GOD substitutes promise much but deliver little.

Jesus sat down by a well and waited for a thirsty woman who had been digging a broken cistern called romance. She came that day with a water jar and a thirst. **JOHN 4:13-14.**

This woman knew how frustrating it was to do the same workday after day as her thirst returned.

**JOHN 4:16.** Jesus knew that the men in her past couldn't quench her heart's desire.

**JOHN 4:17-18.** This woman was wasting her life worshipping men, which is why Jesus didn't give her 10 tips on making marriage work but one massive revelation: **JOHN 4:26.**

She left her jar behind **JOHN 4:28.** That symbol of her never-ending work sat propped up at the well.

I wonder what Jesus would say to me if I had met Him at that well . . . ? What would Jesus say to you?

So why is it so hard for us to stay happy? Why do we need another trip, another night out, another pair of shoes, another phone, another gun, another car?

**Maybe because GOD never wanted you to be completely content until you found the One you were created to crave. JOHN 6:27.**

The problem with food is that it doesn't last. **JOHN 6:35.**

**The blessing always turns out to be less satisfying than GOD.**