



11am Bible Study:
Pastor Will Lloyd, IV, MTS

Topic: Substitutes vs. Spirit and Truth
Series Title: How to Have Eternal Life
Chapters: John 4:15-24 **July 15, 2026**

Key Verse: John 4:15, NKJV, 15 The woman said to Him, “Sir, *give me this water, that I may not thirst*, nor come here to draw.”

Intro: Syncretism - is the blending or merging of disparate religious, cultural, or philosophical beliefs into a new, unified system.

The Samaritans - altered the Pentateuch, only accepted those five altered chapters, and rejected the rest of the Old Testament. Due to intermarriage with the Assyrians and other foreigners, many Samaritans worshiped foreign gods along with the one true God. They set up a rival worship site at Mt. Gerizim in Samaria and claimed that Abraham sacrificed Isaac there rather than on Mt. Moriah in Jerusalem.

In filmmaking, a "**montage**" is an editing technique where a series of short shots are sequenced together, usually set to music, to show the passage of time or character progression.

Historical Montage

Ezra 4:1-3 - Bad Blood, due to refusing idolatrous influence. “These **Adversaries**” - are Samaritans

2 Kings 17:24-41 - Read together

Jesus reversed course from past hostility to build a bridge of love that leads to salvation.

Up-to-date in Jesus’ Setting Montage

Luke 9:51-56, Luke 17:11-19, (to set up next verse, read Luke 11:45-46 - then Luke 10:25-37, Acts 1:8, Acts 8:4-25

1. We All Want Contentment - John 4:15

Question for Dialogue: Sadly some sinners, due to their rejection of God (professing to be wise, became fools Rom. 1:22), have been given over (abandoned) to a depraved mind, debased mind, foolish mind (Rom. 1:28-32). While they still have consequences for their actions now, and eternally if they don’t change, *many of them would say they’re “content.”* Notice the woman at the well came for water at Noon (v.6 “sixth” hour) instead of at 6am, or the 1st hour, when it was cooler. *She was hiding, so clearly, she was not content. Do you know someone far from God, doing their own thing with no regard for Jesus, who seems to be content?*

2. We’ve All Tried Substitutes for Jesus - John 4:16

Question for Dialogue: What have you recently knowingly or unknowingly tried to use as a substitute for Jesus?

3. Jesus Knows All of Our Sins – John 4:17-18

Question for Dialogue: Not one of the five husbands could bring her contentment, and none of them were designed to. Living a life apart from Jesus’ identity for us and apart from our God-given purpose as disciple-makers will make us susceptible to sin, because we’ll seek meaning and fulfillment apart from Jesus’ will for our lives. **Have you ever felt like something was missing in your life but couldn’t quite put your finger on it? Have you figured it out? If so, what was it?**

4. Deflection and Division - John 4:19-20

Question for Dialogue: People driven by fear typically use division as a tactic. Maybe they fear they'll have to share power or a piece of the pie with others, and because of selfish ambition, they hate, conspire, and divide. I've seen it happen locally, nationally, in families, and even in the church. *Dr. King, in his Letter from a Birmingham Jail, said, "In a real sense, all life is interrelated. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be... This is the interrelated structure of reality."*

Typically, leaders are empowered to serve as bridges to mend broken relationships and eliminate division, but what do we do when the leaders are corrupt? It's easy to see this failure in others, but each of us in our own right are leaders of ourselves and those with whom we do life with. **With whom are you doing life, and the relationship is broken, but you can use your position in the relationship to stop the division and begin the process toward repair?**

5. Get Right, Because Time is Running Out - John 4:21

Question for Dialogue: How does your pending visit to be evaluated by Jesus guide your choices today?

6. Mixing Religious Practices is Unacceptable to God (Syncretism covered above) - John 4:22

Question for Dialogue: No Christian would be ok sharing the spouse they covenanted with at the altar with vows with someone else. **What sneaky ways have you noticed Satan try to steal your heart's affection from God?**

7. Worship Must Come from One who is Saved by Christ - John 4:23-24 (see also Eph. 1:13)

Question for Dialogue: What does worship mean to you, and in what ways can it be expressed?
