

## John 6:41–51 – “What It Means to Know Jesus”

*Knowing about Jesus is not the same as knowing Him. To know Him is to believe in Him—and those who believe will live forever.*

### **The Biblical World – Understanding the Context:**

Jesus had just declared, “I am the Bread of Life,” promising eternal life to all who believe. But the Jewish crowd, especially those familiar with His upbringing, responded with resistance. They were offended that someone they considered “just Joseph’s son” would claim to come down from heaven. Jesus exposed the real issue—not a lack of information, but a refusal to believe. He taught that only those drawn and taught by the Father would come to Him, and those who believe would live forever. Jesus then revealed that He would give His flesh for the life of the world—a foreshadowing of His sacrificial death.

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### **Passage Outline**

- **I. Knowing about Jesus is not knowing Jesus. (vv. 41–43)**
  - **II. To know Jesus is to believe in Him. (vv. 44–47)**
  - **III. Jesus, the Bread of Life, satisfies forever. (vv. 48–51)**
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### **Passage Notes**

#### **I. Knowing about Jesus is not knowing Jesus. (vv. 41–43)**

The crowd grumbled because they thought they knew Jesus’ background. But their familiarity blinded them to His true identity. Like their ancestors in the wilderness, they rejected what God had provided—not out of ignorance, but unbelief.

#### **II. To know Jesus is to believe in Him. (vv. 44–47)**

No one comes to Jesus unless drawn by the Father—and those who hear and learn from God will believe. Jesus makes the invitation clear: “He who believes in Me has everlasting life.” Believing isn’t earning. It’s receiving.

#### **III. Jesus, the Bread of Life, satisfies forever. (vv. 48–51)**

The manna in the wilderness couldn’t prevent death. But Jesus, the true Bread from heaven, gives eternal life. His flesh, given for the world, is how we live forever—not through effort, but by faith in Him.

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### **The Modern World – Relevance Today:**

Many today are familiar with Jesus in name or tradition but don't know Him through faith. They seek fulfillment in works, religion, or emotion. Jesus confronts this by offering something better—eternal life by simply believing.

### **The World of the Congregation – Applying This Passage Today:**

Within churches, people may appear close to Jesus but still trust in lifestyle or performance. This passage confronts assumptions and calls us to root our faith in Jesus alone for eternal life and lasting security.

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### **What This Means for Us**

- **Familiarity with Jesus is not faith in Jesus.**
  - *Have you mistaken knowing about Jesus for knowing Him personally?*
    - → Stop assuming—start believing. Trust Him today for eternal life.
- **Believing is not working—it's receiving.**
  - *Are you trying to earn what Jesus already gave?*
    - → Rest in the Bread of Life. He's enough.
- **Faith in Jesus satisfies what the world can't.**
  - *Where are you still chasing things that leave you empty?*
    - → Trade religion for relationship. Believe—and live forever.