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Sermon Series: Believe

Sermon Title: Believe and Know

Passage: John 6:22-71

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John 6:22-71 (CSB)

²²The next day, the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea saw there had been only one boat. They also saw that Jesus had not boarded the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone off alone. ²³Some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

²⁶Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled. ²⁷Don't work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set his seal of approval on him."

²⁸"What can we do to perform the works of God?" they asked.

²⁹Jesus replied, "This is the work of God—that you believe in the one he has sent."

³⁰"What sign, then, are you going to do so we may see and believe you?" they asked. "What are you going to perform? ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written: **He gave them bread from heaven to eat.**"

³²Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, Moses didn't give you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

³⁴Then they said, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵"I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again. ³⁶But as I told you, you've seen me, and yet you do not believe. ³⁷Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹This is the will of him who sent me: that I should lose none of those he has given me but should raise them up on the last day. ⁴⁰For this is the will of my Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him will have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

⁴¹Therefore the Jews started complaining about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴²They were saying, "Isn't this Jesus the son of

Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

⁴³ Jesus answered them, "Stop complaining among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets: **And they will all be taught by God.** Everyone who has listened to and learned from the Father comes to me— ⁴⁶ not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God. He has seen the Father.

⁴⁷ "Truly I tell you, anyone who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that anyone may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵² At that, the Jews argued among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. ⁵⁴ The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day, ⁵⁵ because my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven; it is not like the manna your ancestors ate—and they died. The one who eats this bread will live forever."

⁵⁹ He said these things while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

⁶⁰ Therefore, when many of his disciples heard this, they said, "This teaching is hard. Who can accept it?"

⁶¹ Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were complaining about this, asked them, "Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you were to observe the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh doesn't help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. ⁶⁴ But there are some among you who don't believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning those who did not believe and the one who would betray him.) ⁶⁵ He said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted to him by the Father."

⁶⁶ From that moment many of his disciples turned back and no longer accompanied him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the Twelve, "You don't want to go away too, do you?"

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered, "Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

⁷⁰ Jesus replied to them, "Didn't I choose you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil." ⁷¹ He was referring to Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, one of the Twelve, because he was going to betray him.

Jesus is critical of people who only seek Him in order to get something from Him for this life.

"This is the work of God – that you **believe** in the one he has sent." (v. 29)

The only work or action we are called to perform for salvation is to believe in Jesus Christ.

"What sign, then, are you going to do so we may see and believe you?" they asked. "What are you going to perform? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat." (vv. 30-31)

Exodus 16:3b (CSB)

"You brought us into this wilderness to make this whole assembly die of hunger!"

Exodus 16:13-15, 31 (CSB)

¹³ So at evening quail came and covered the camp. In the morning there was a layer of dew all around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew evaporated, there were fine flakes on the desert surface, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they asked one another, "What is it?" because they didn't know what it was.

Moses told them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat.

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³¹ The house of Israel named the substance manna. It resembled coriander seed, was white, and tasted like wafers made with honey.

John 6:35 (CSB)

³⁵ "I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again."

The choice to follow Jesus and fully participate in what He offers takes drastic steps of faith by those who decided to make a complete commitment to Him.

⁶⁶ From that moment many of his disciples turned back and no longer accompanied him.

Some people who think of themselves as disciples of Jesus but who are not willing to follow and obey Him when it is not convenient for them. These are not true followers of Christ.

⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the Twelve, "You don't want to go away too, do you?"

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered, "Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ **We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.**"

Jesus hasn't changed. Jesus asks the same of all of His followers today as He did with his original disciples.