

**Message:** *Moses – A Journey Toward God Week 5: The Round-About Ways of God*

**Scripture:** Exodus 3:7, 13:17-22 (NRSV)

*"Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.'" Exodus 3:7*

*"When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer; for God thought, 'If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt.' So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle. And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph who had required a solemn oath of the Israelites, saying, 'God will surely take notice of you, and then you must carry my bones with you from here.' They set out from Succoth, and camped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people." Exodus 13:17-22*

## THE DESERT IS THE PLACE

### 1. WHERE WE LEARN PATIENCE AND TO FOLLOW A GOD WHO IS NOT IN A HURRY.

*"Let no one leave any of it over until morning." Exodus 16:19*

*"But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and became foul." Exodus 16:20*

### 2. WHERE WE ARE MADE STRONG.

*When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer; for God thought, 'If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt.' Exodus 13:17*

### 3. THAT HAS PAIN ATTACHED TO IT.

### 4. WHERE WE LEARN TO LOVE GOD FOR GOD'S SAKE AND NOT JUST FOR THE SAKE OF THE MILK AND HONEY HE GIVES TO US.