

June 21, 2020

## **TAKING THE LONG WAY HOME**

### **EXODUS 13.17-22**

*When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, "If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle.* Exodus 13.17-18

### **Is God leading us down the longer road into the desert of Covid-19 and racial conflict?**

#### **Two Important Things We Must Do on the Long Journey:**

##### **1. Keep our end of the covenant WITH JESUS .**

*Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath. He had said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place."* Exodus 13.19

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."* Matthew 16.24

*Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.* Isaiah 1.17

*He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?" declares the Lord.* Jeremiah 22.16

*My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.* James 2.1

## **CARE FOR PEOPLE**

##### **2. Remember that God always goes before us in THE HOLY SPIRIT .**

*After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.* Exodus 13.20-22

*Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.* Matthew 10.29-30

*Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?* 1 Corinthians 3.16

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**What is God saying to me?**

**What am I going to do about it?**