

An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. A narrow, light-colored dirt road or path winds through the trees, curving from the left towards the right. The trees are tall and closely packed, creating a rich texture of green. The lighting suggests a bright day, with some highlights on the foliage.

The Gospel of Mark

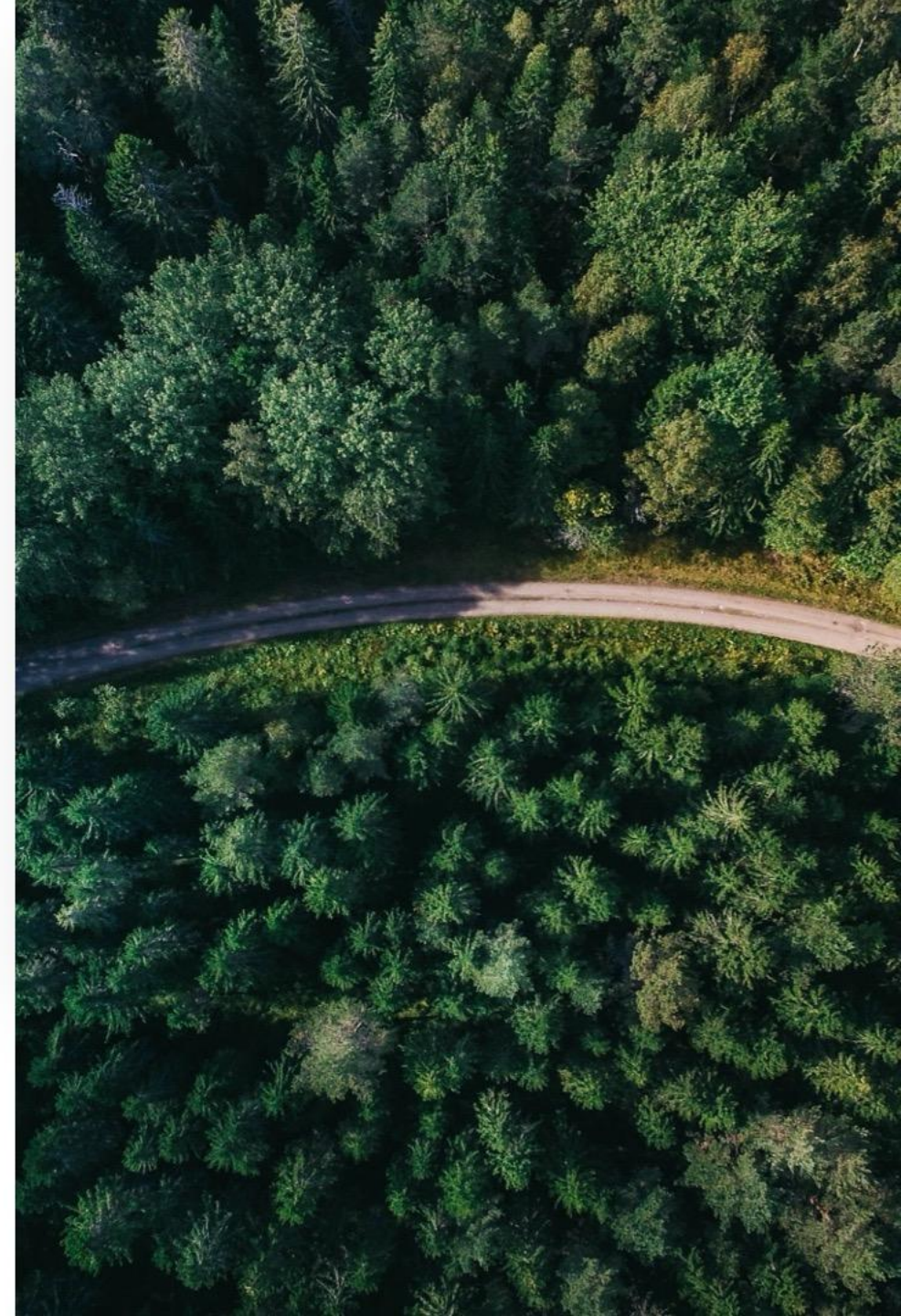
Not One of Us

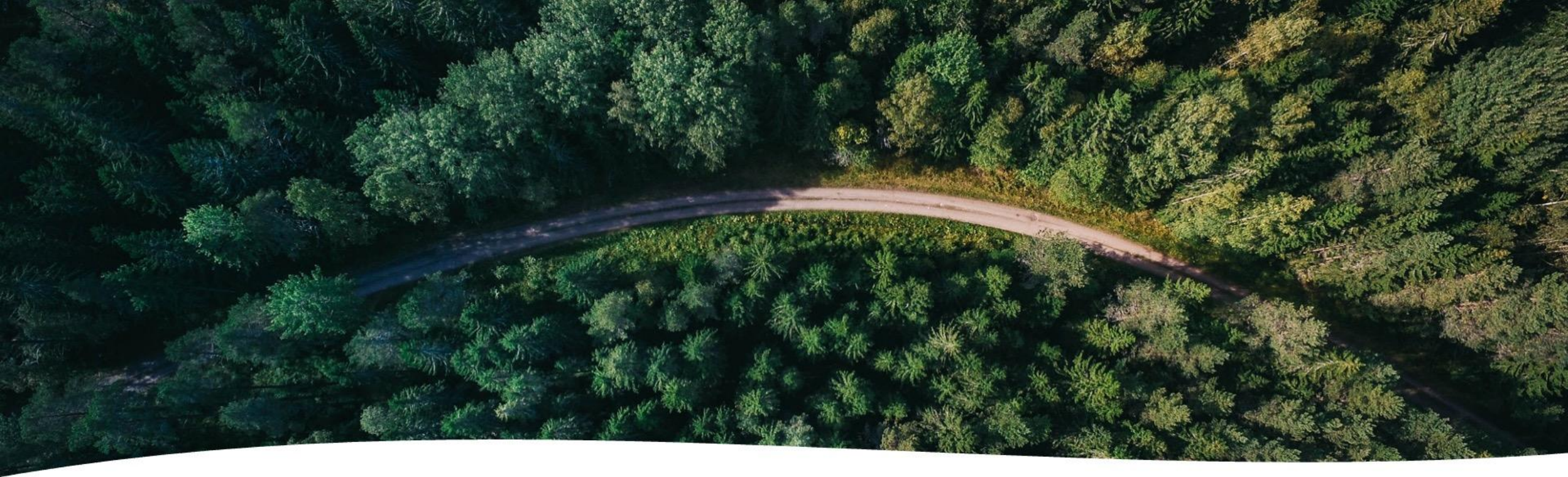
Mark 9:38-41

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³⁸ “Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because **he was not one of us.**”

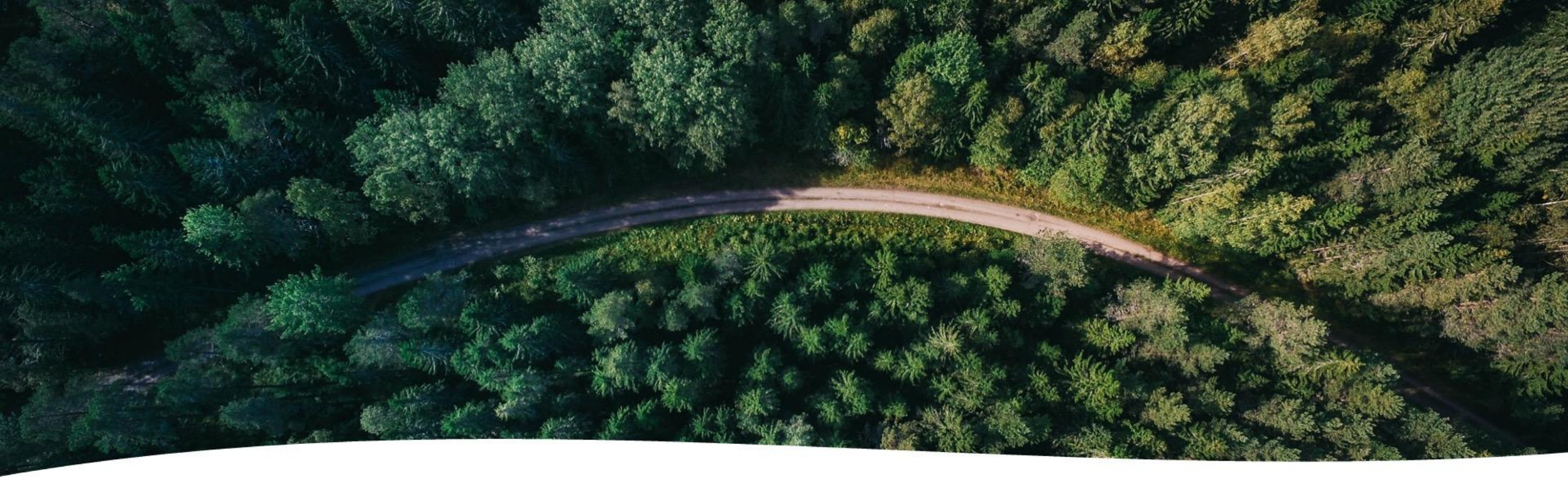
³⁹ “Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, ⁴⁰ for whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.





Are we about building **His Kingdom**
or are we about building **our empire**?

“We saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop,
because **he was not one of us.**” (Mark 9:38)



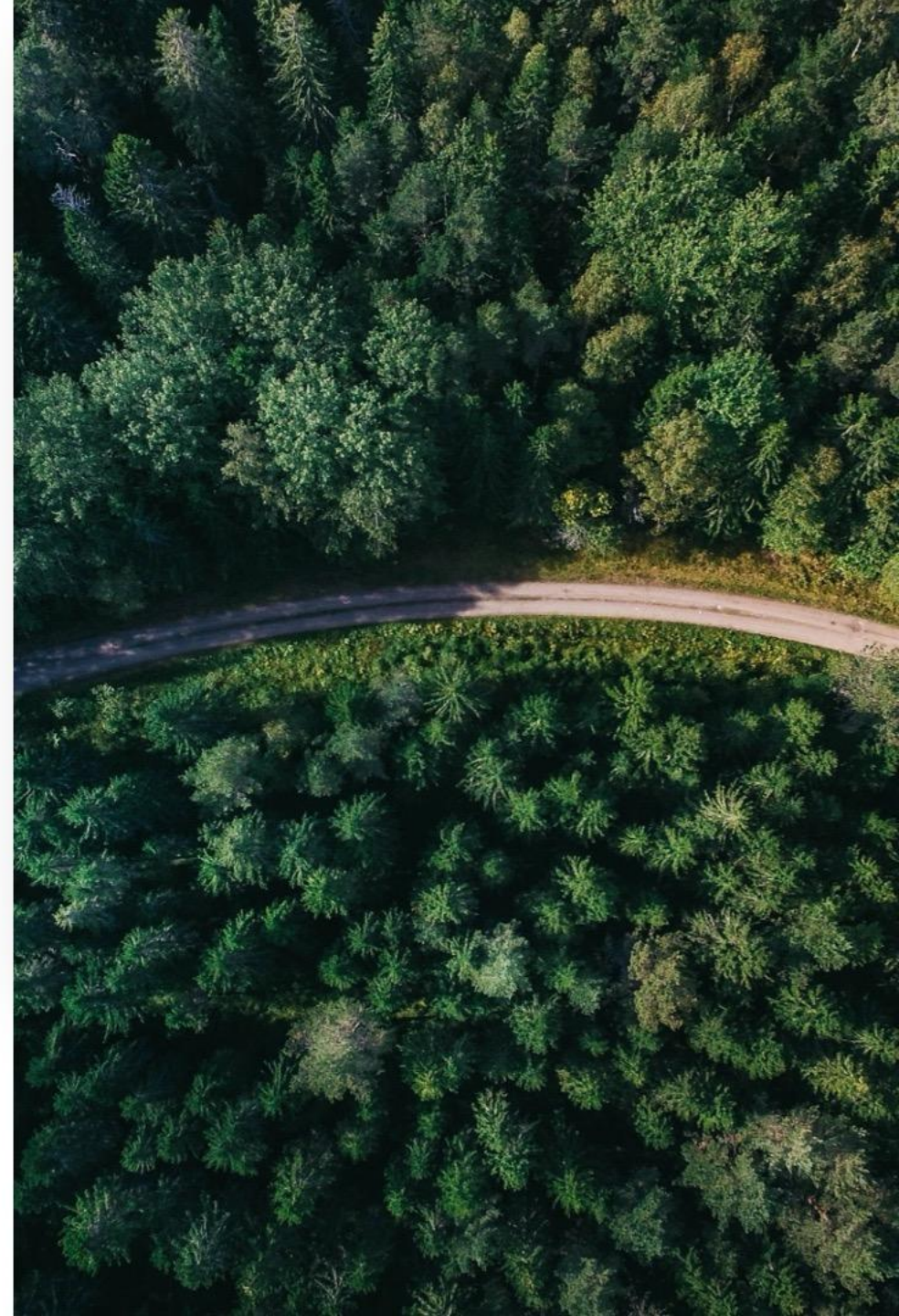
The Spirit of EMPIRE Accumulation and Preservation

“We saw someone driving out demons in your name and **we told him to stop,**
because he was not one of us.” (Mark 9:38)

Mark 9:38-41

³⁸ “Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

³⁹ “**Do not stop him,**” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, ⁴⁰ for whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.





Philippians 1:15-18

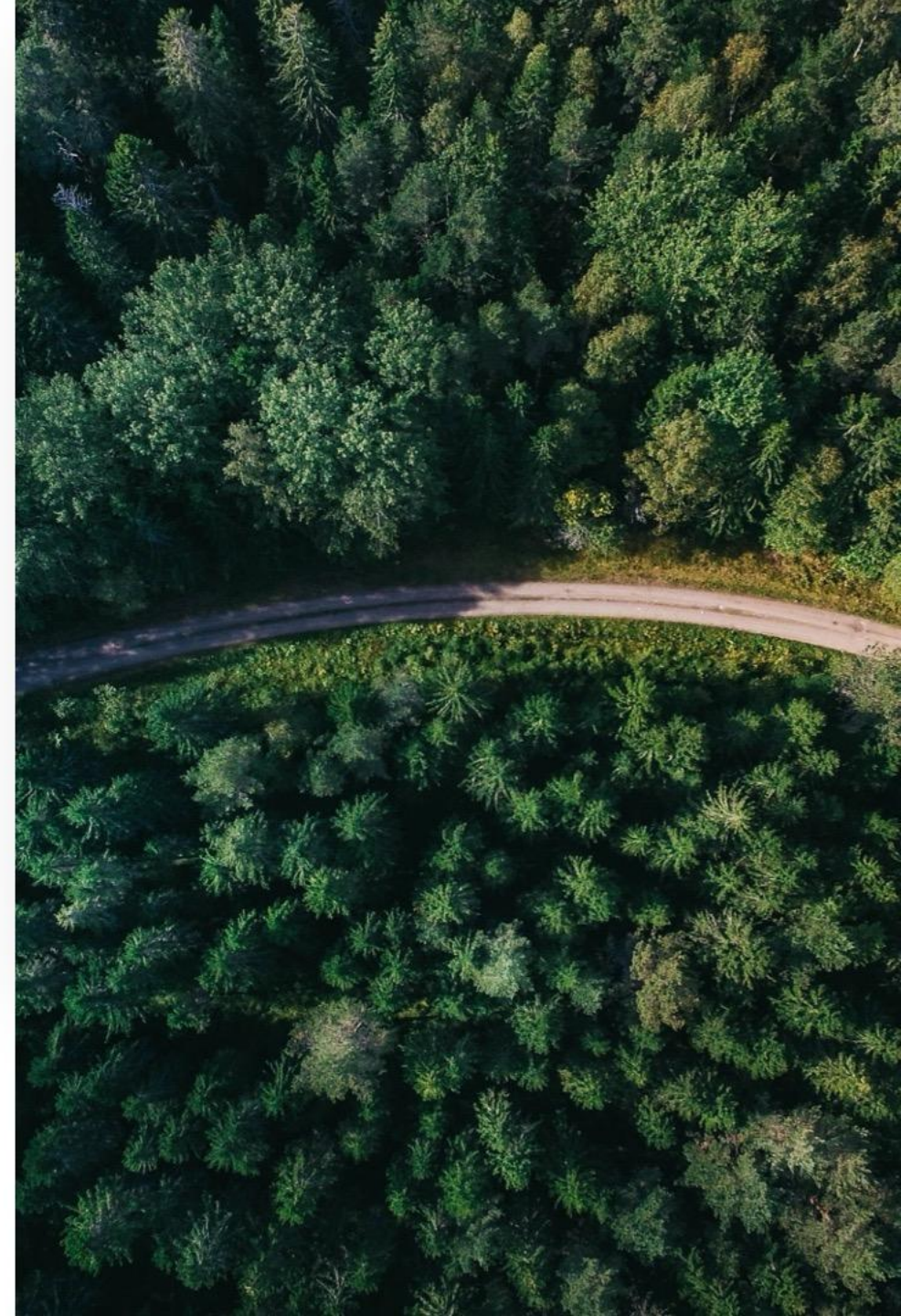
¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defence of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from **false motives or true**, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Mark 9:38-41

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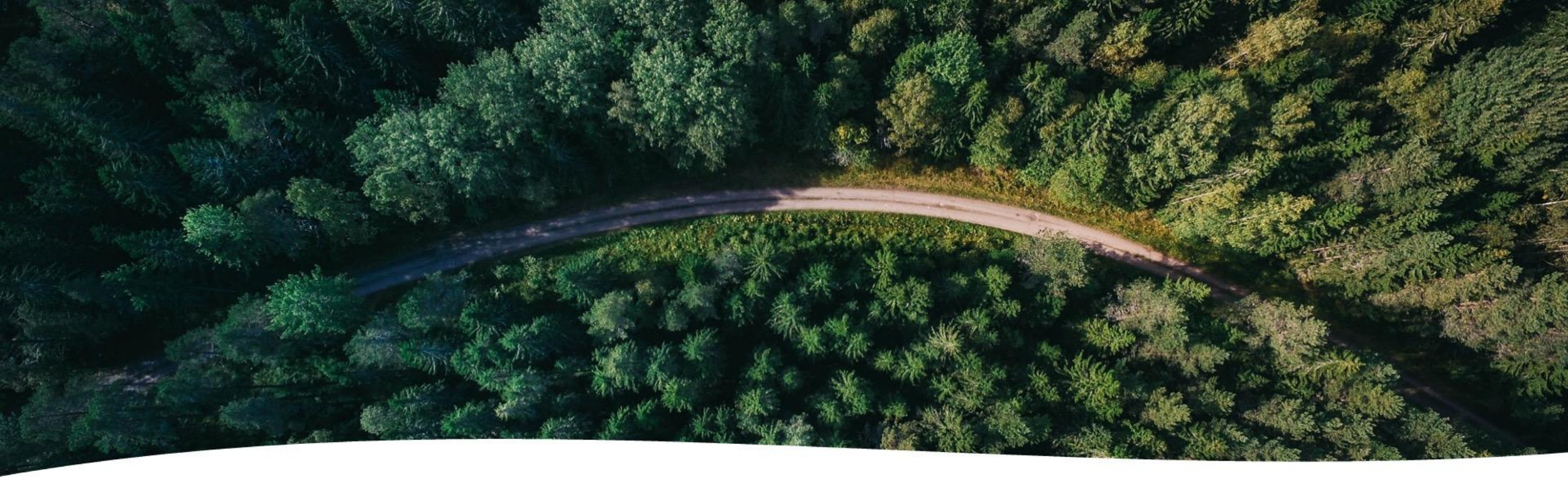


Matthew 12:30-32

³⁰ “Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

³¹ And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.



IF YOUR “SPECIALNESS” FEELS THREATENED

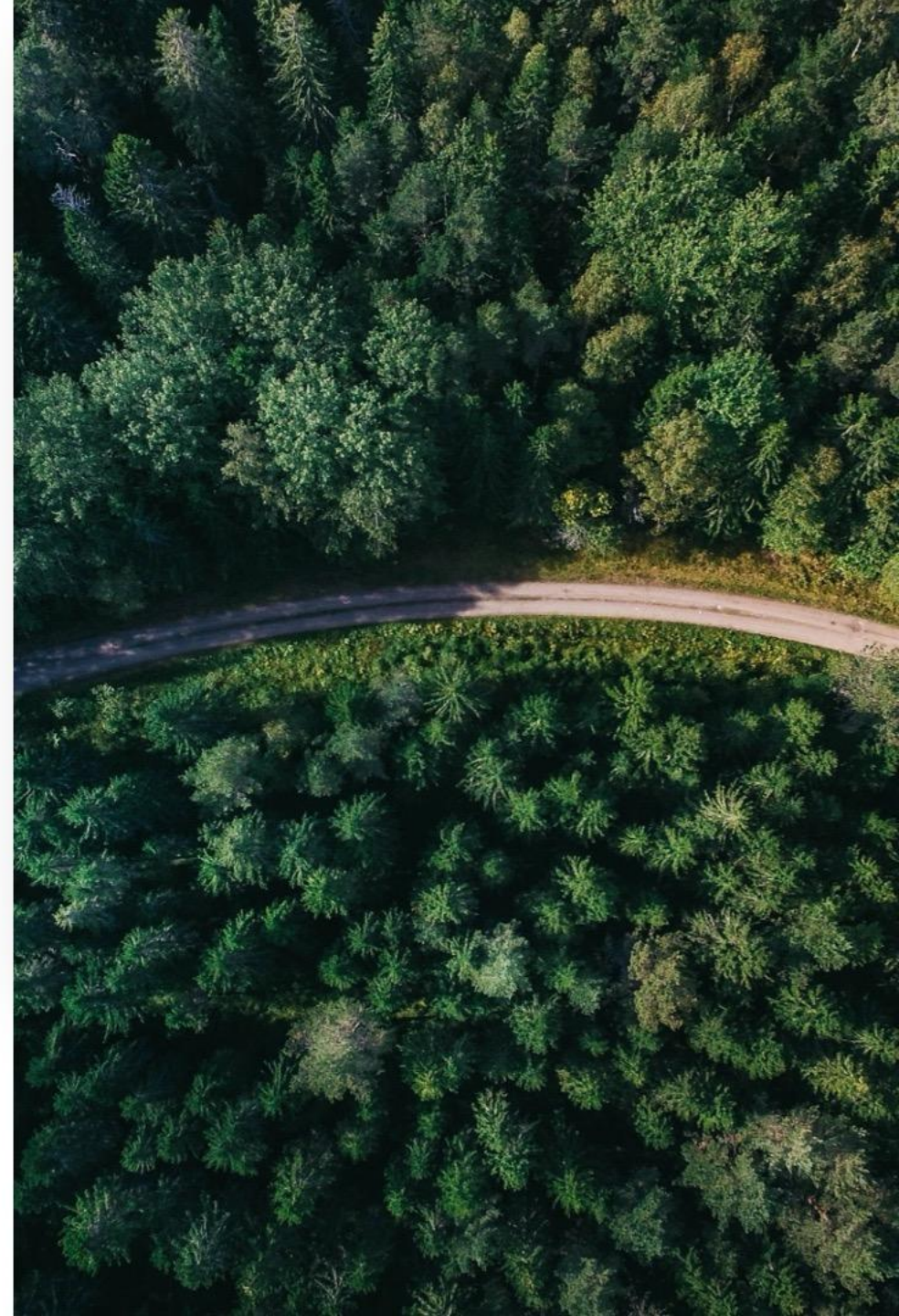
Look for the **fruit** of the Holy Spirit.

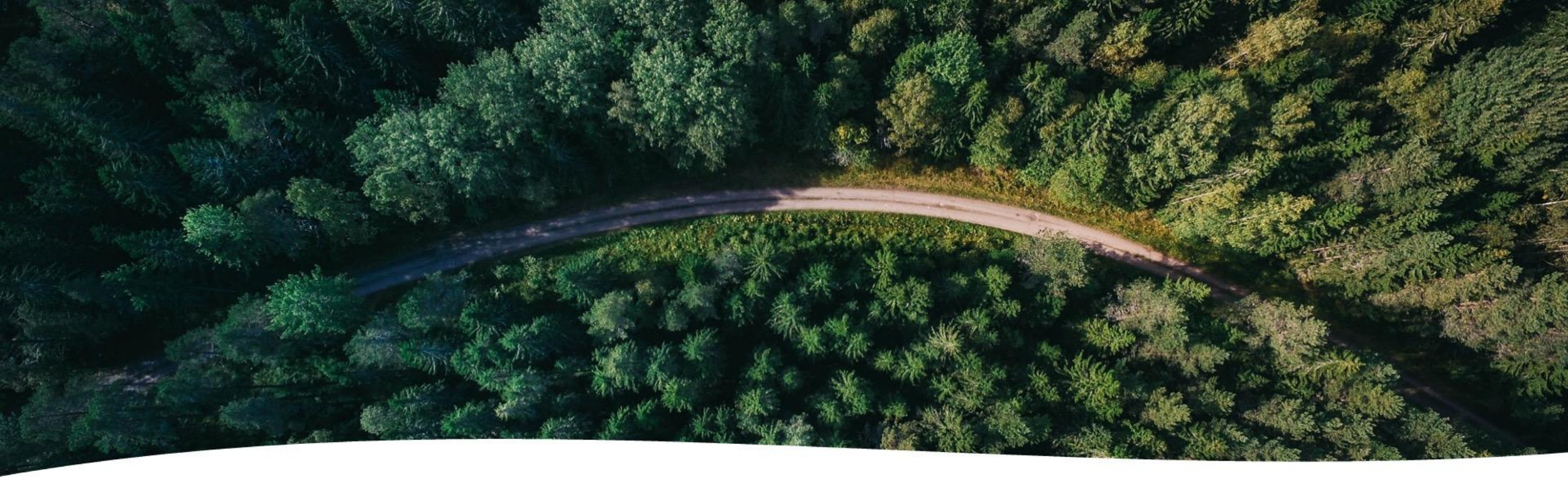
“...anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven...” (Matthew 12:32)

Mark 9:38-41

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“In Jesus’ Name”

is a declaration in faith for an outcome consistent with the Kingdom of God and invoking the authority of the King as one who **belongs** to him.



Acts 19:13-16

¹³ Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, “In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.”

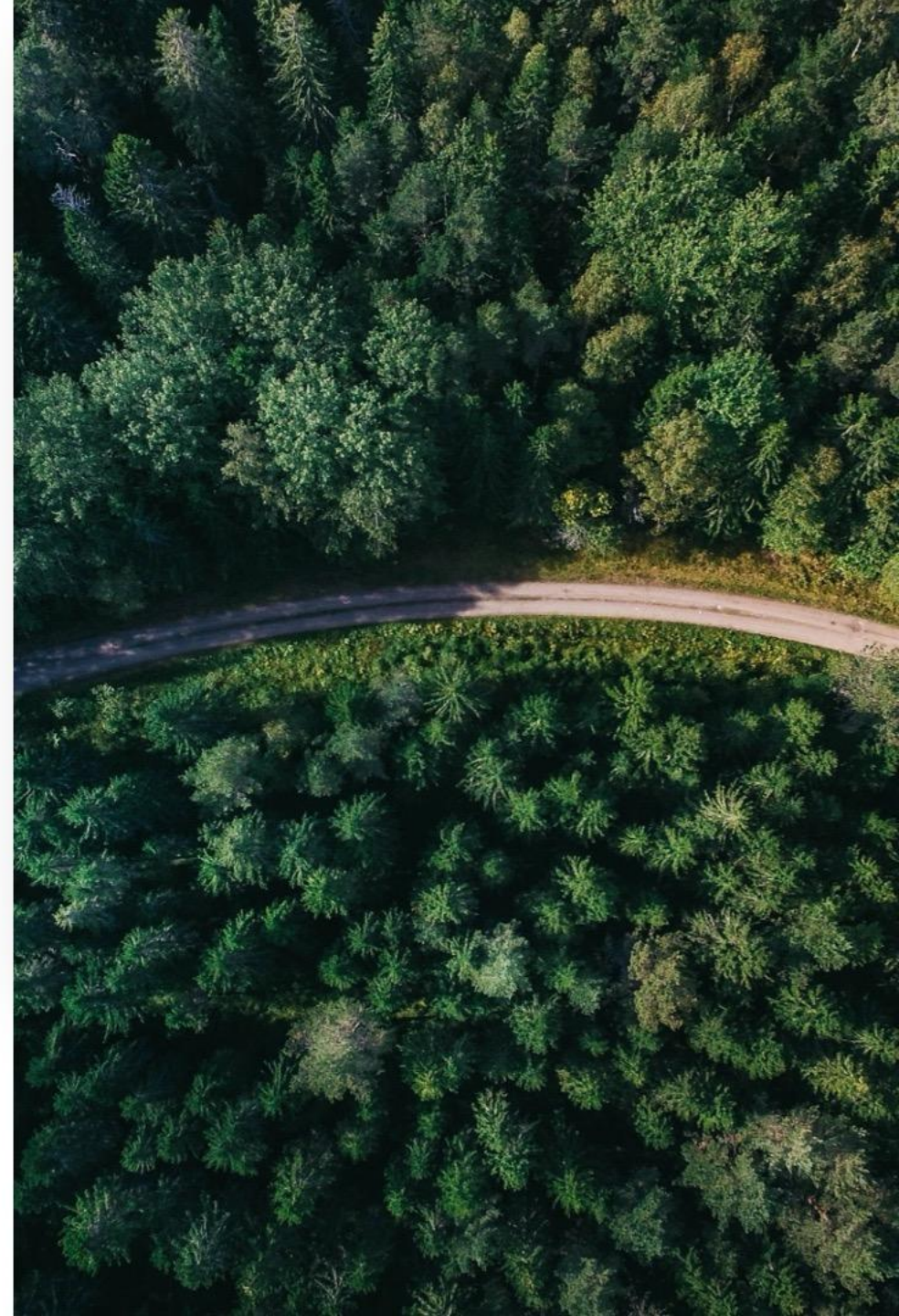
¹⁴ Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. ¹⁵ One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?”

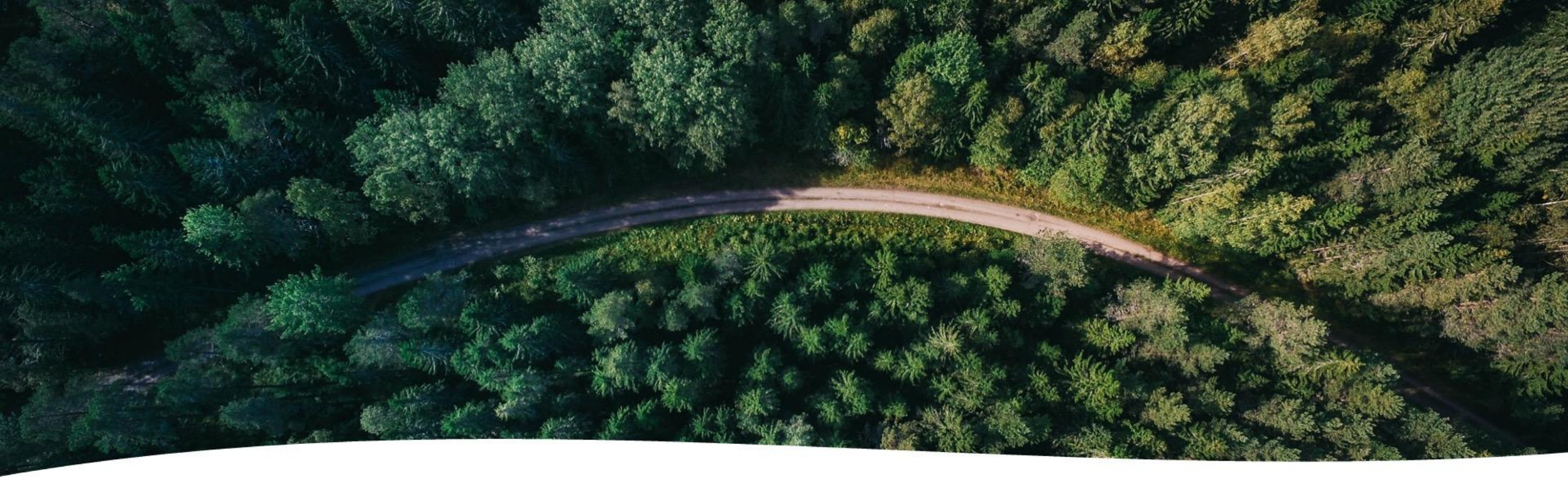
¹⁶ Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

Mark 9:38-41

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“You are special and so are they.”

“Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.” (Mark 9:41)