

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

Salt and Fire

Mark 9:42-50

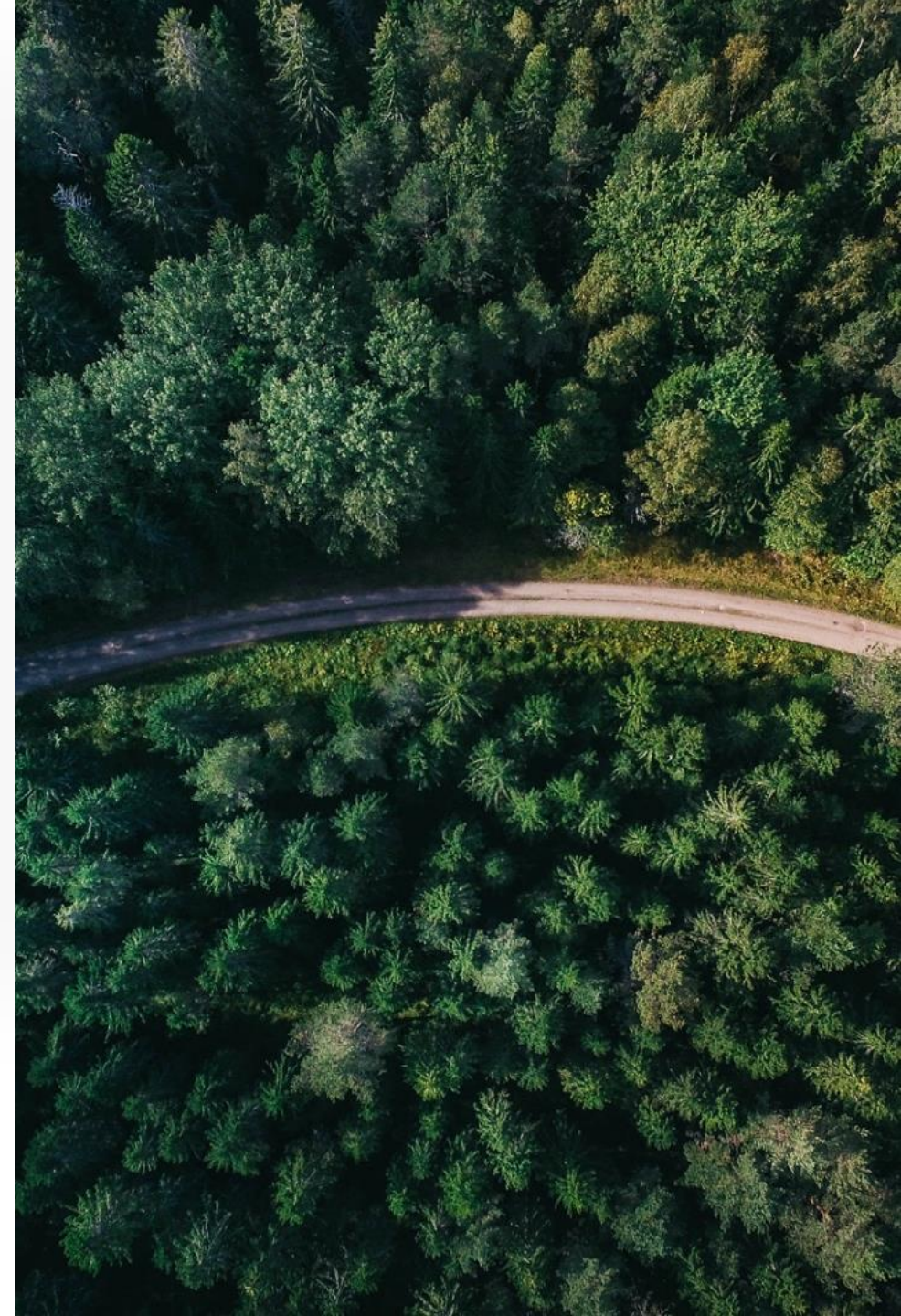
Mark 9:42-50

⁴² “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea.

⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. ^[44] ^[b] ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. ^[46] ^[c]

^[b] Some manuscripts include here the words of verse 48.

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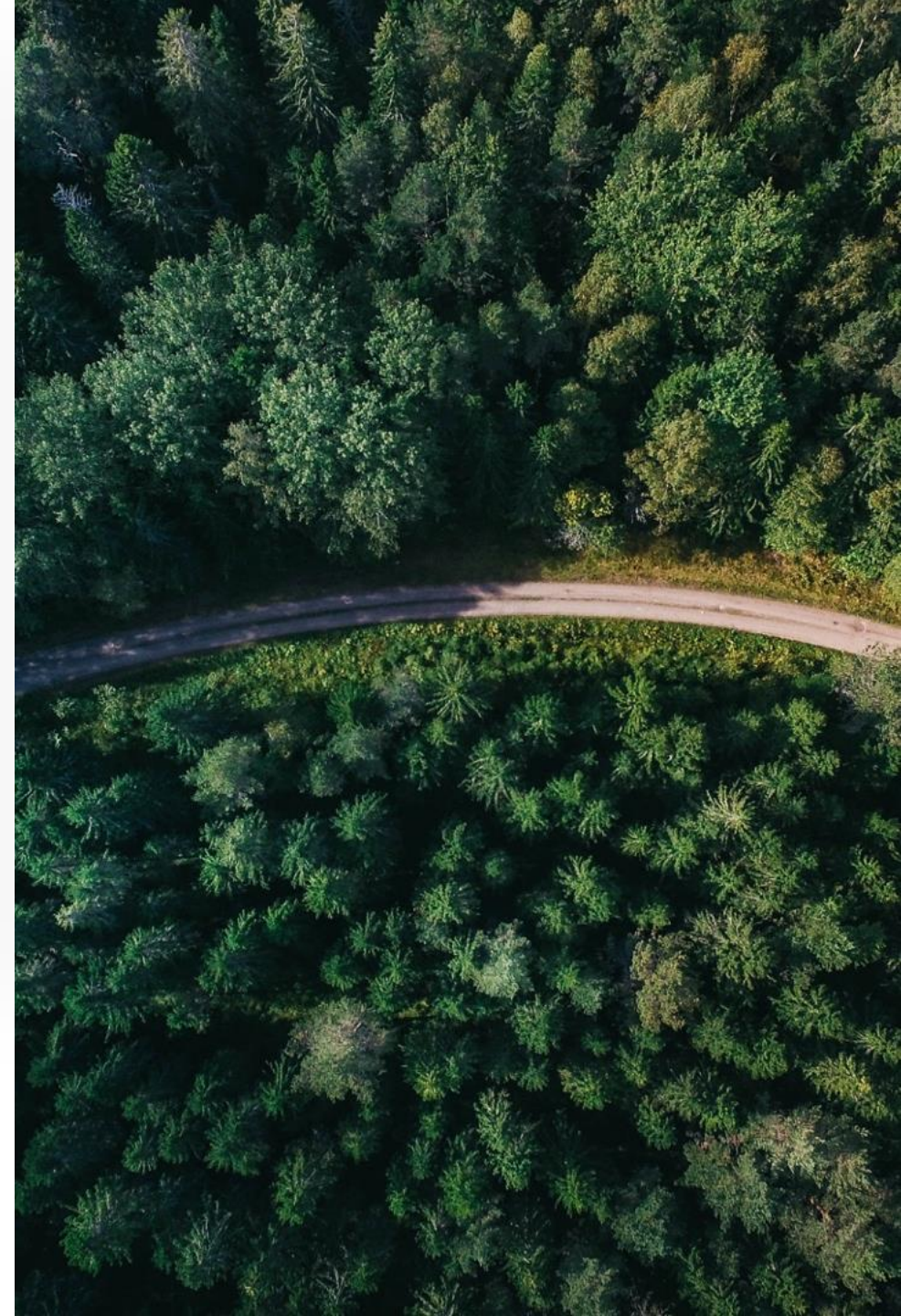
Mark 9:42-50

⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where

“the worms that eat them do not die,
and the fire is not quenched.”^[d]

⁴⁹ Everyone will be salted with fire.

⁵⁰ “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”





Mark 9 (Setting)

³³ They came to **Capernaum**. When he was **in the house**, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?”

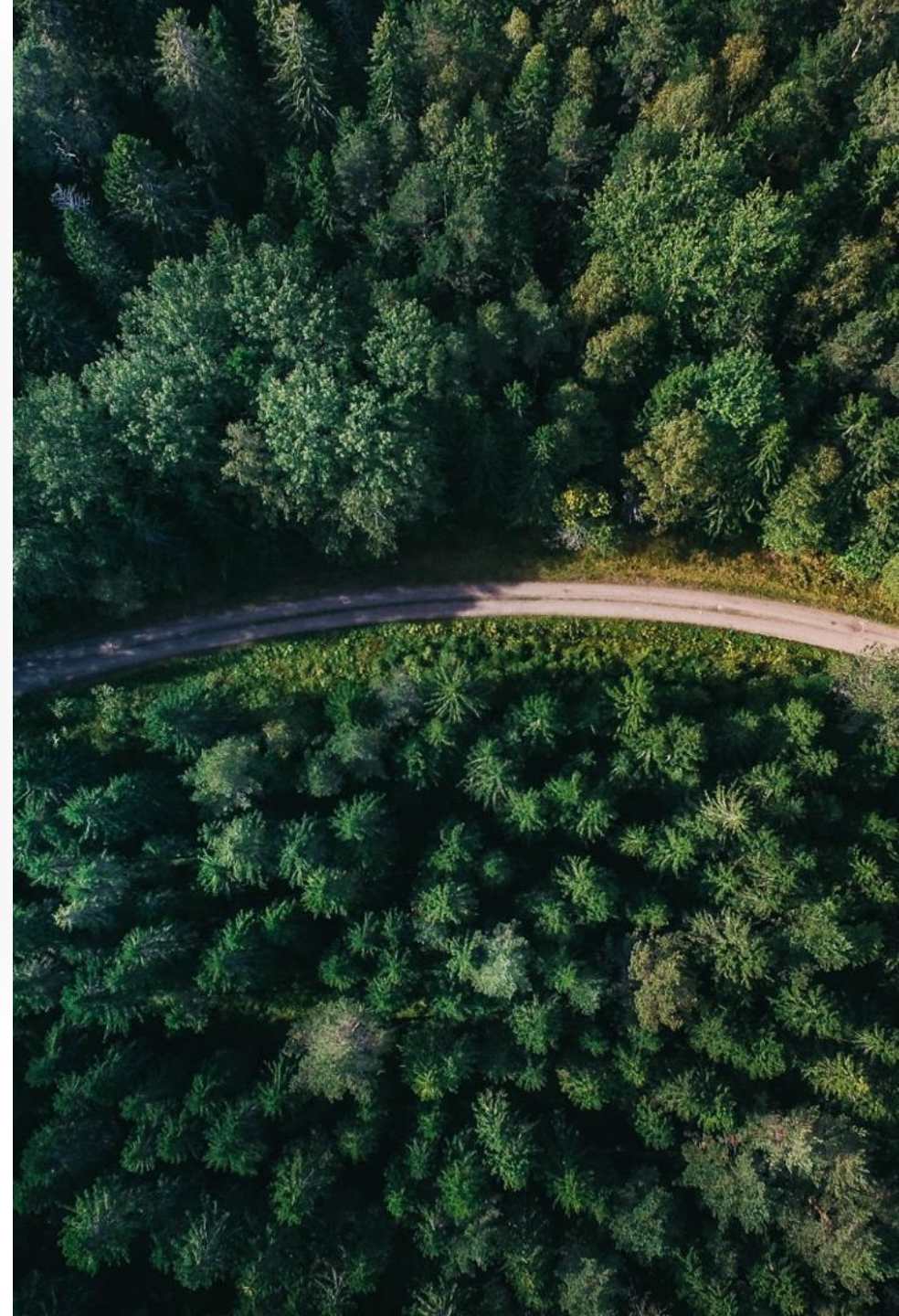
(Teaching: Jesus redefines *greatness*)

³⁶ He took a little child whom he placed among them. **Taking the child in his arms**, he said to them, ³⁷ “Whoever welcomes one of these **little children** in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

(Teaching: Jesus redefines *specialness*)

Mark 9:42

⁴² “If anyone causes one of **these little ones**—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea.



Mark 9:43-48

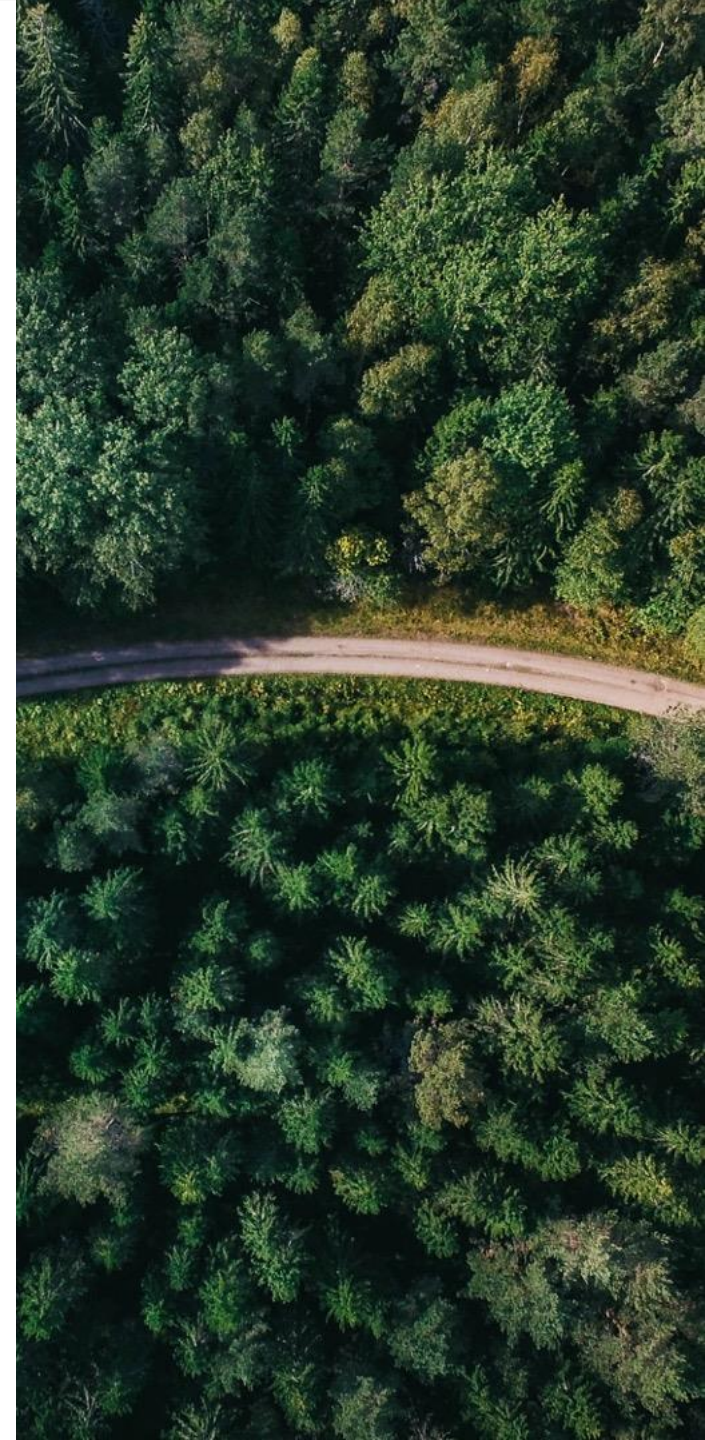
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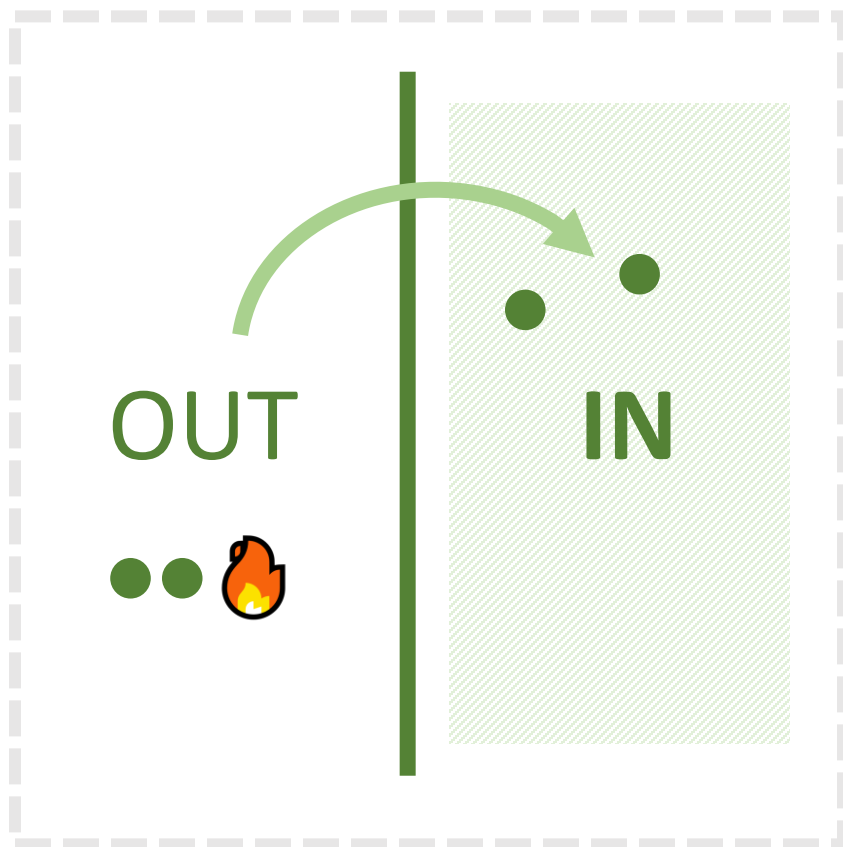
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^[d] Isaiah 66:24 (*remez*)

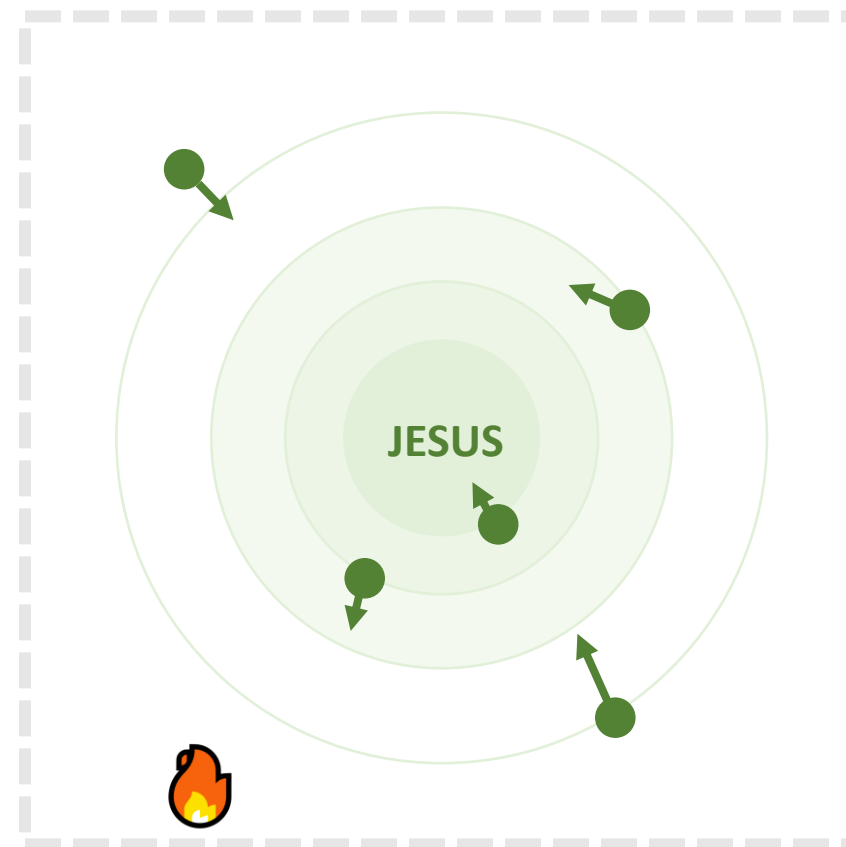


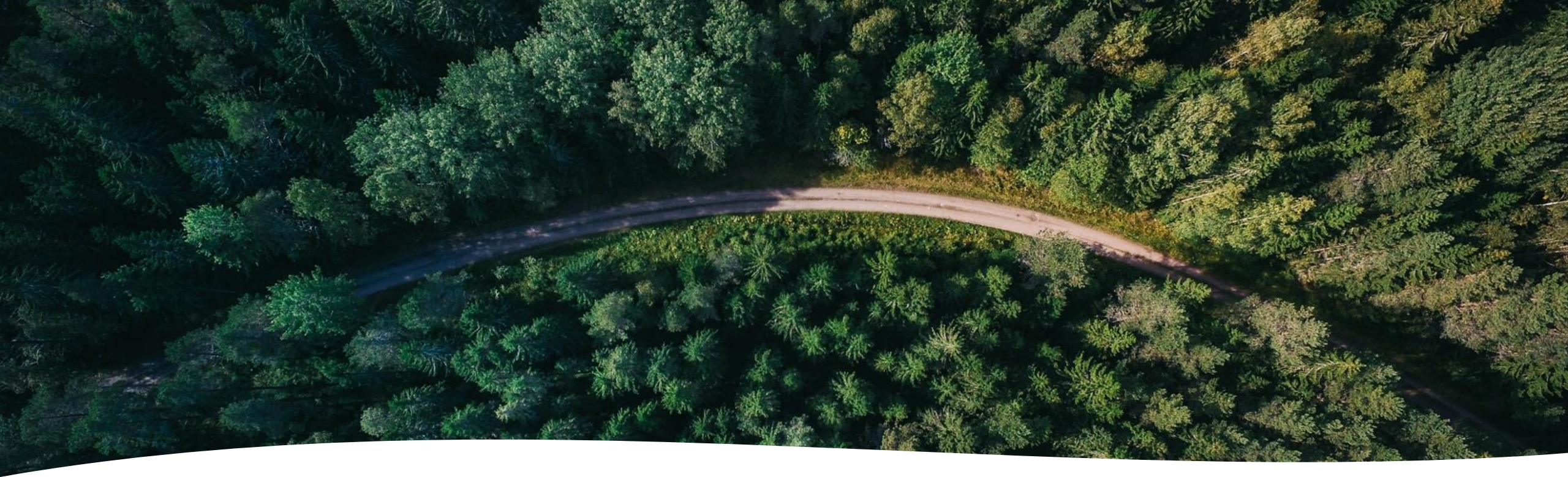


Line Thinking

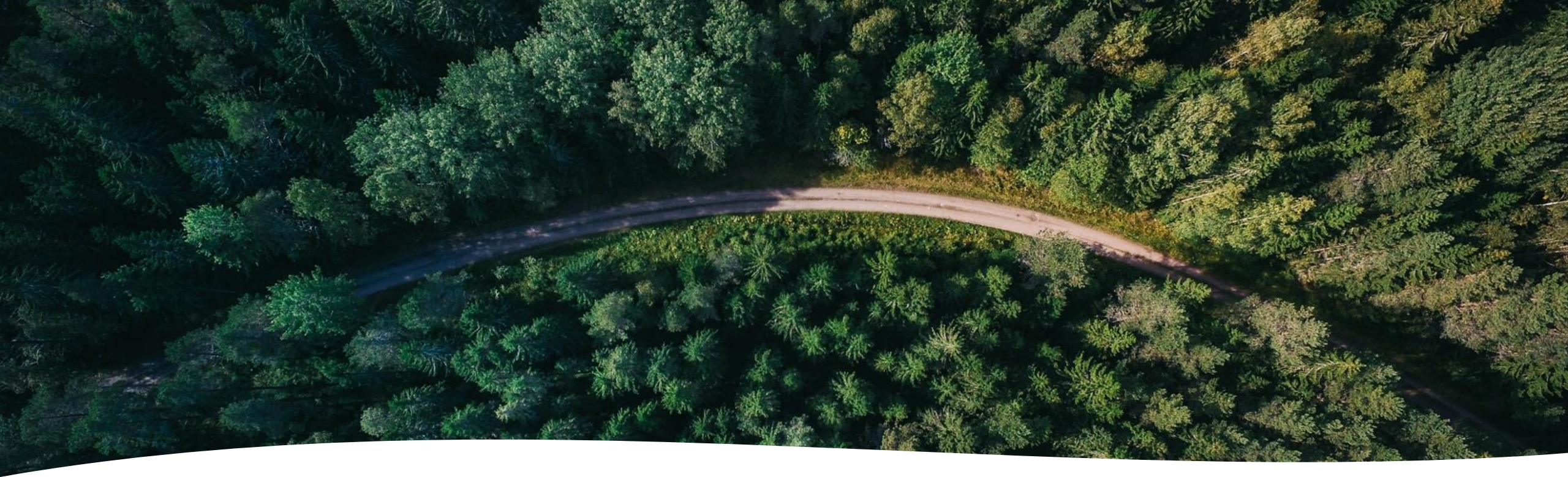


Circle Thinking





The faith Jesus desires is an **embraced direction**,
not just a promised destination.



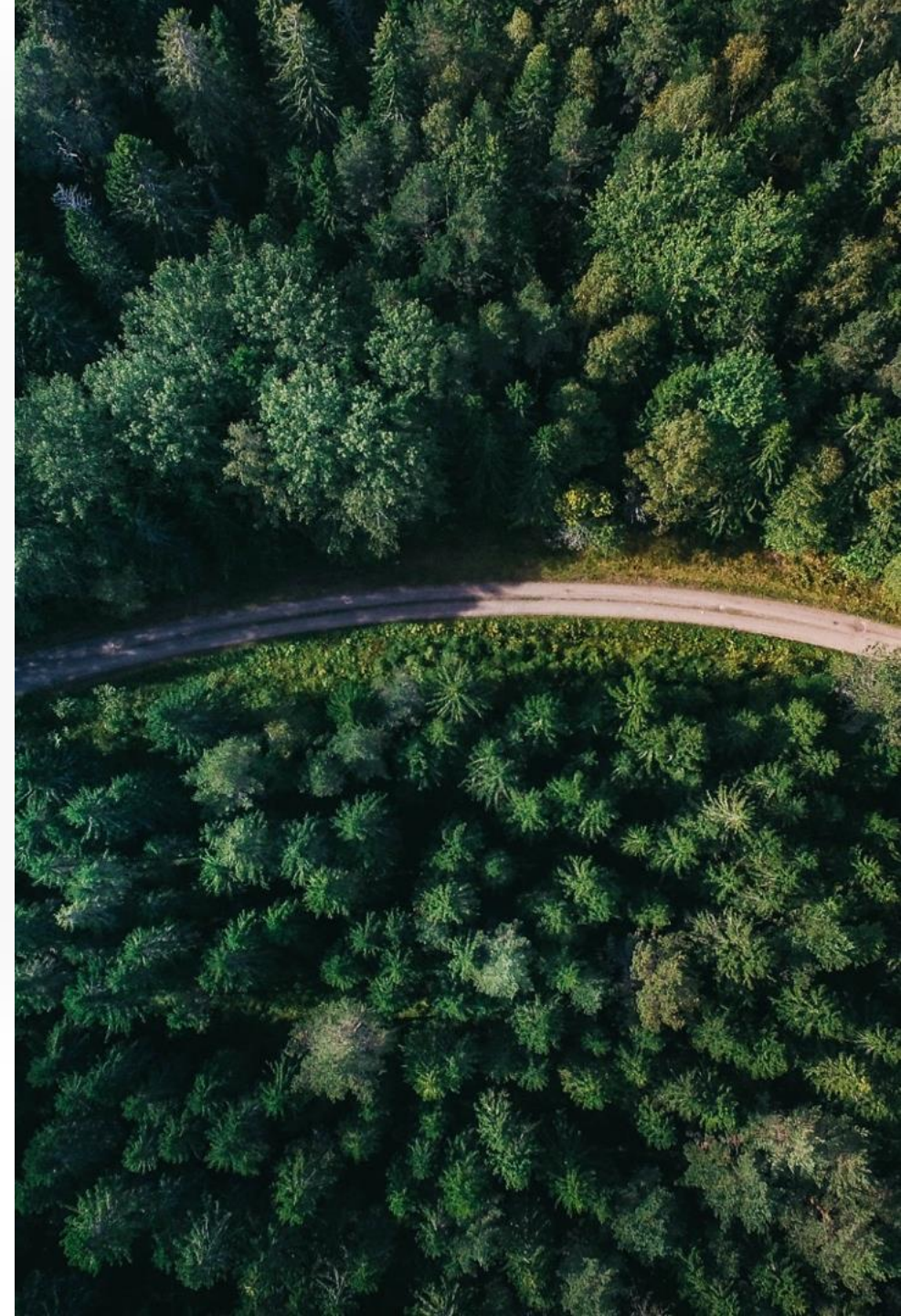
The faith Jesus desires is an **embraced direction**,
not just a promised destination.

So...is there something you need to **cut off**?

Mark 9:49-50

⁴⁹ Everyone will be salted with fire.

⁵⁰ “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”





Matthew 5:13

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.”



The only way to regain the “saltiness” that God desires we have is through **refinement**.

“Everyone will be salted with fire.” (Mark 9:49)

Mark 9:43-48

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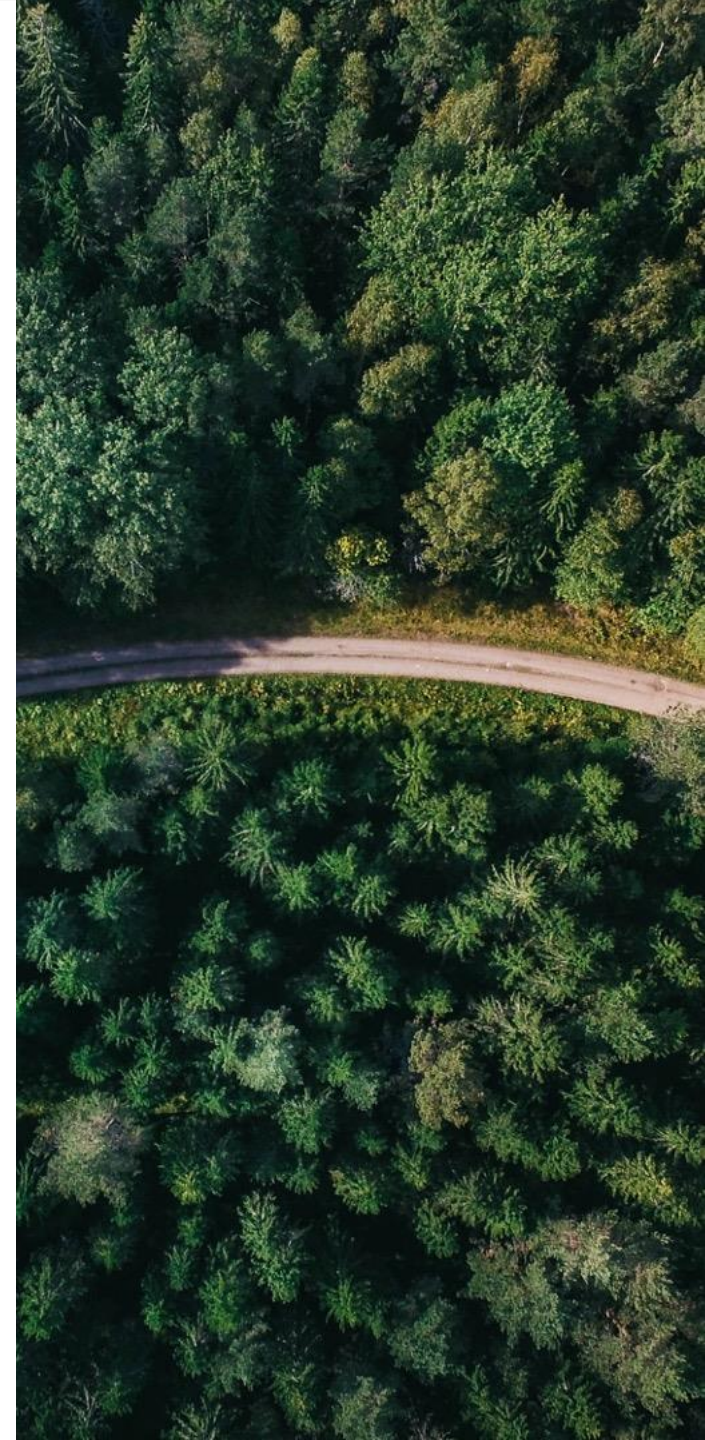
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^[d] Isaiah 66:24





Isaiah 68:18-21

¹⁸ “And I, because of what they have planned and done, am about to come and **gather the people of all nations and languages**, and they will come and see my glory.

¹⁹ “I will **set a sign among them**, and I will **send some** of those who survive to the nations...to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations.



Isaiah 68:18-21

²⁰ And they will bring all your people, **from all the nations**, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the Lord—on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels,” says the Lord.

“They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the Lord in ceremonially **clean vessels**. ²¹ And I will select some of them also to be **priests and Levites.**” says the Lord.



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“They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their **grain offerings**, to the temple of the Lord in ceremonially clean vessels. ²¹ And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites,” says the Lord.



Leviticus 2:13

¹³ Season all your **grain offerings** with salt. **Do not leave the salt** of the covenant of your God out of your grain offerings; **add salt** to all your offerings.