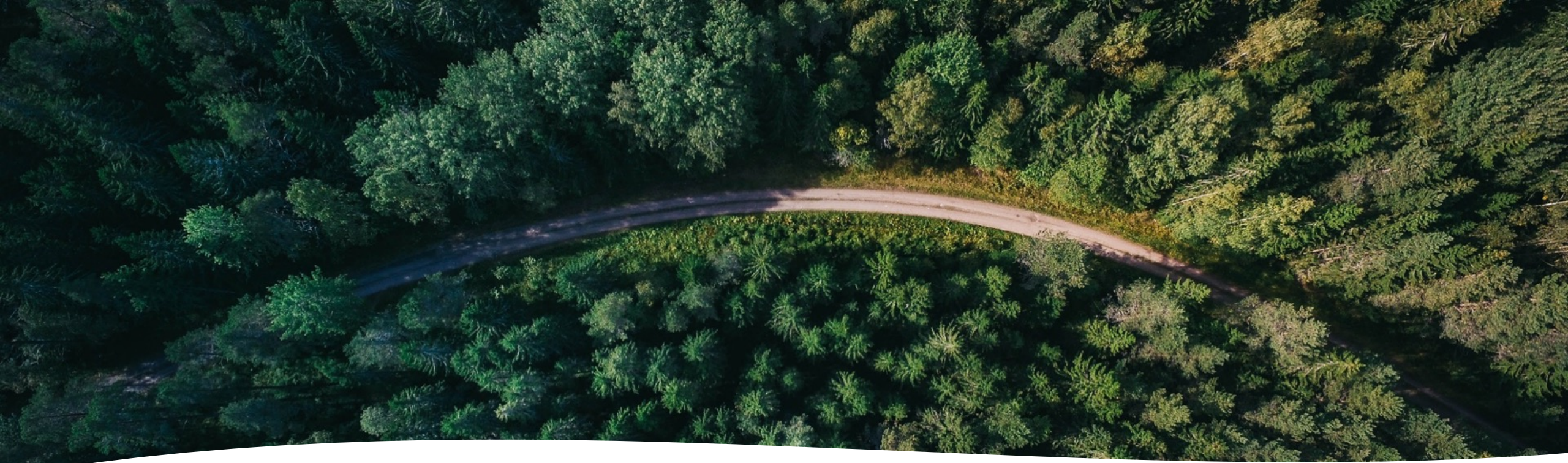


An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. A narrow, light-colored dirt road winds through the trees, curving from the left towards the right. The text "The Gospel of Mark" is overlaid on the image in a white, cursive font with a soft green glow. "The" is smaller and positioned above "Gospel". "of" is smaller and positioned between "Gospel" and "Mark".

*The
Gospel of Mark*

Silence to Speak

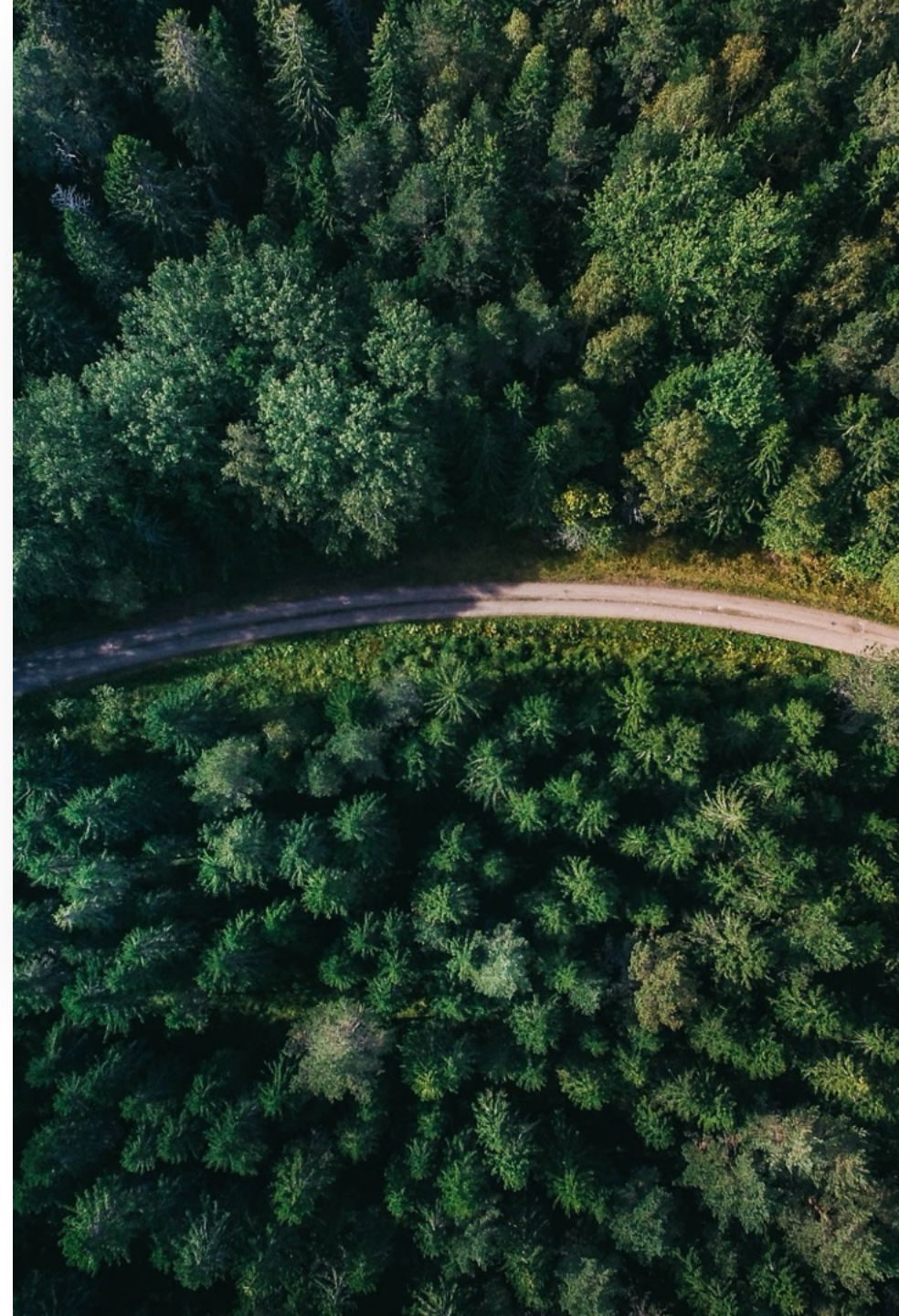
Mark 14:53-65, 15:1-5



We don't struggle with justice, **we**
struggle with waiting for it.

Mark 14:53-54

⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴ Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.



Expressions of
First Century Judaism

 Hellenism

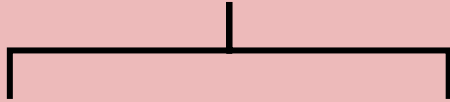
 Hellenism

 Priestly Line

Essenes
(Qumran Community)

Sadducees
(inc. Chief Priests – *Zadokim*)

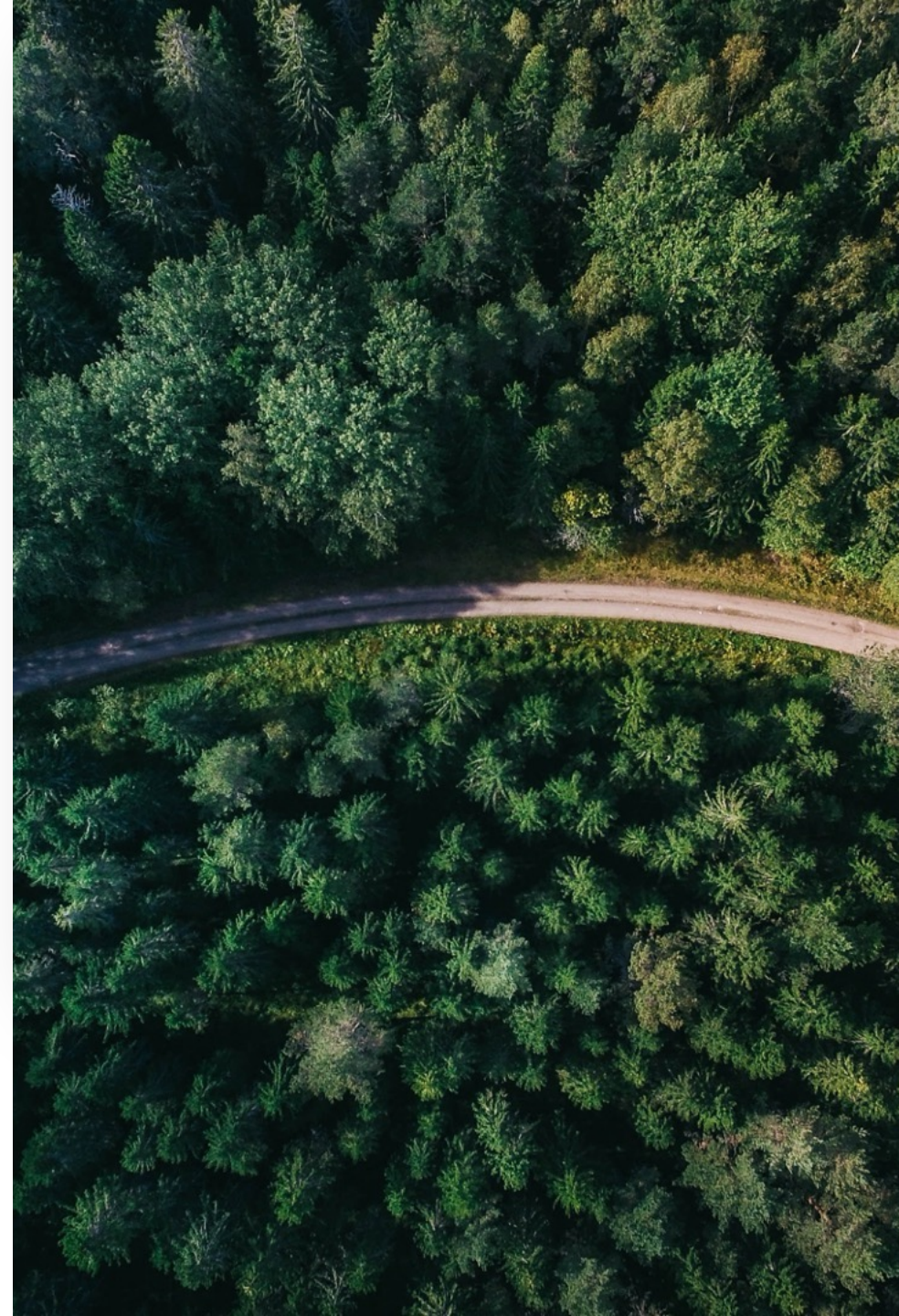
 Priestly Line

Hasadim
("Pious Ones")

Pharisees **Zealots**

Herodians
(Hellenistic Judaism)

Mark 14:53-54

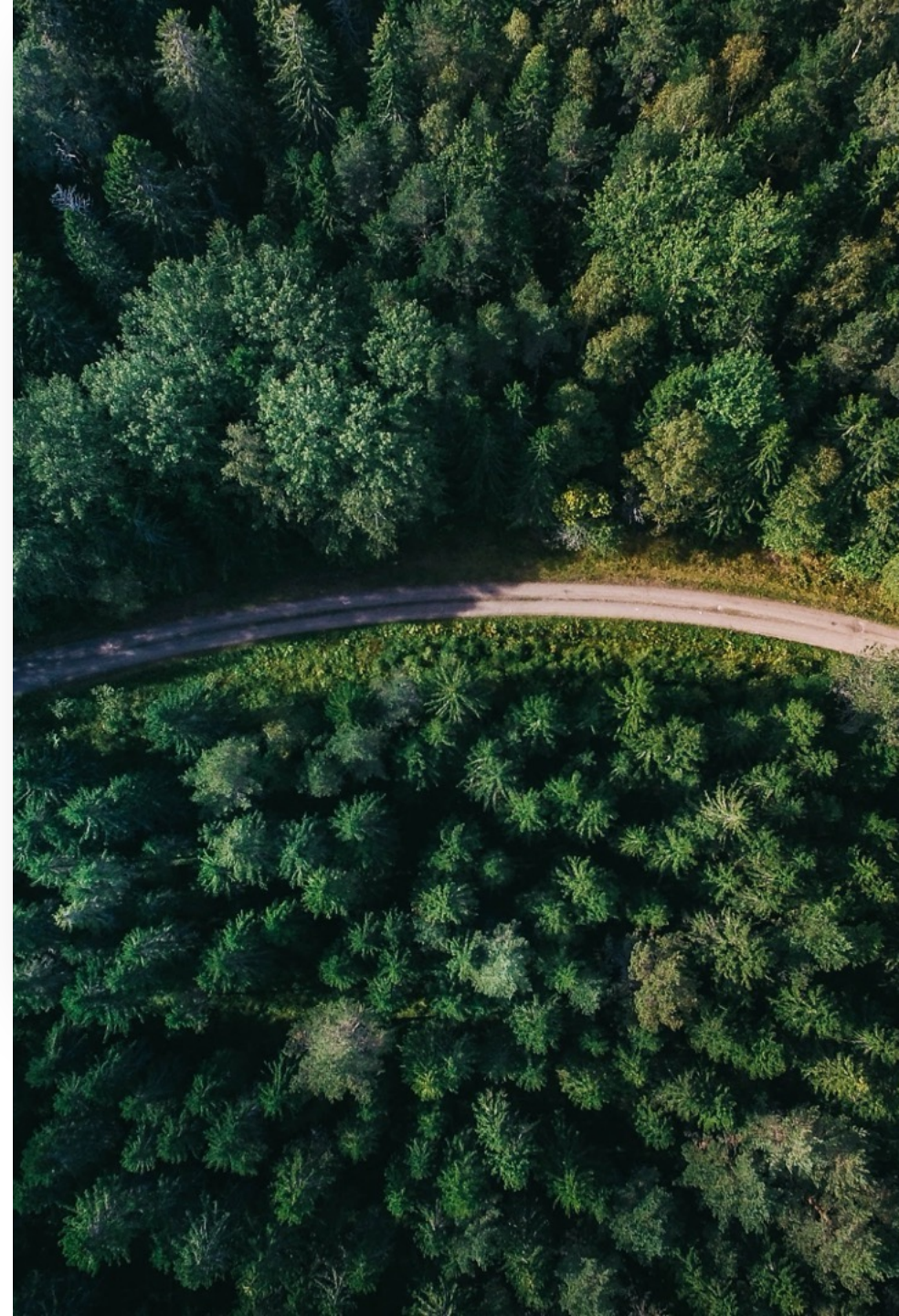
⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. ⁵⁴ Peter followed him at a distance, **right into the courtyard of the high priest**. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.



Mark 14:55-59

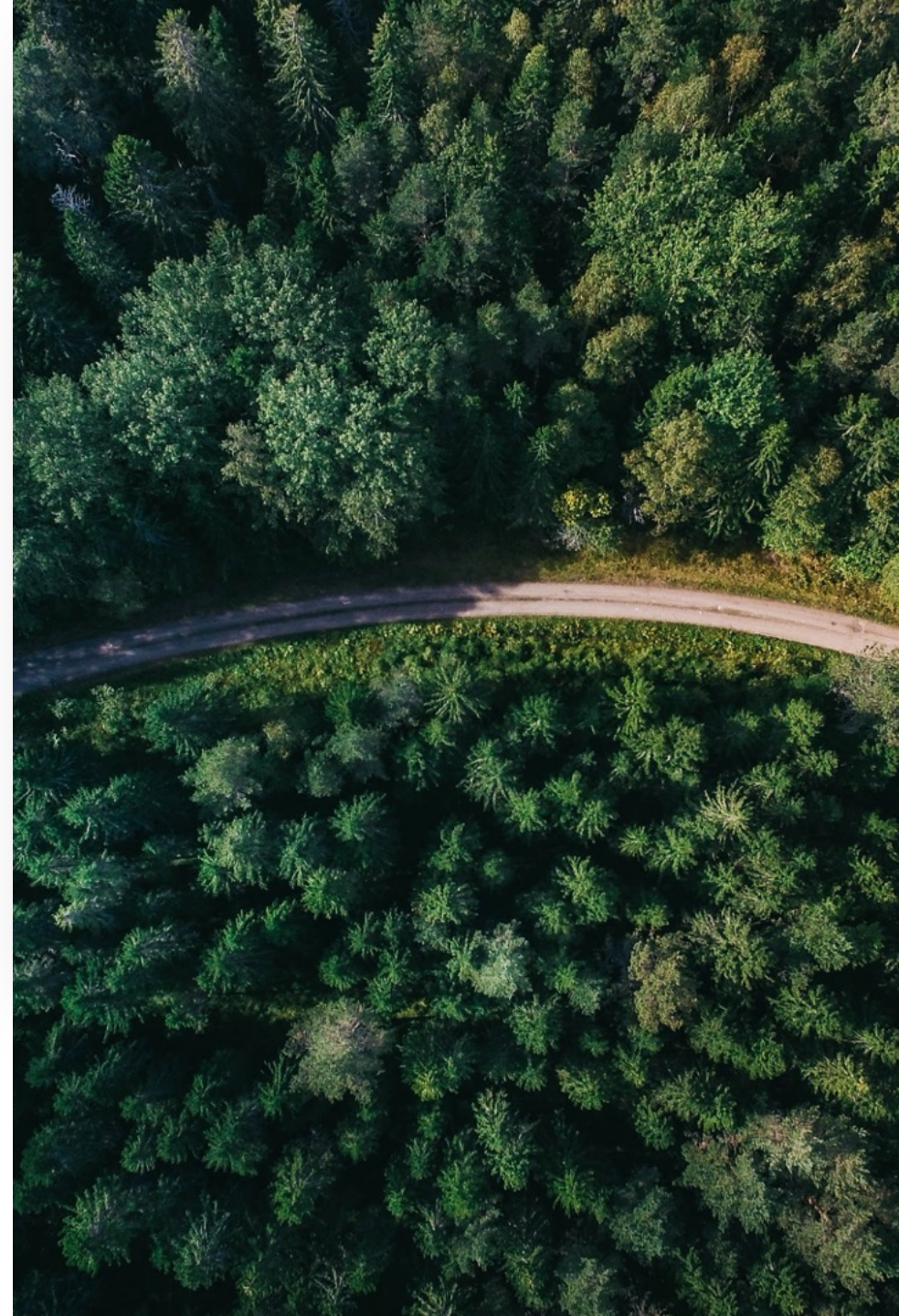
⁵⁵ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. ⁵⁶ Many testified falsely against him, **but their statements did not agree.**


⁵⁷ Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: ⁵⁸ “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” ⁵⁹ **Yet even then their testimony did not agree.**



Mark 14:60-61

⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” ⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

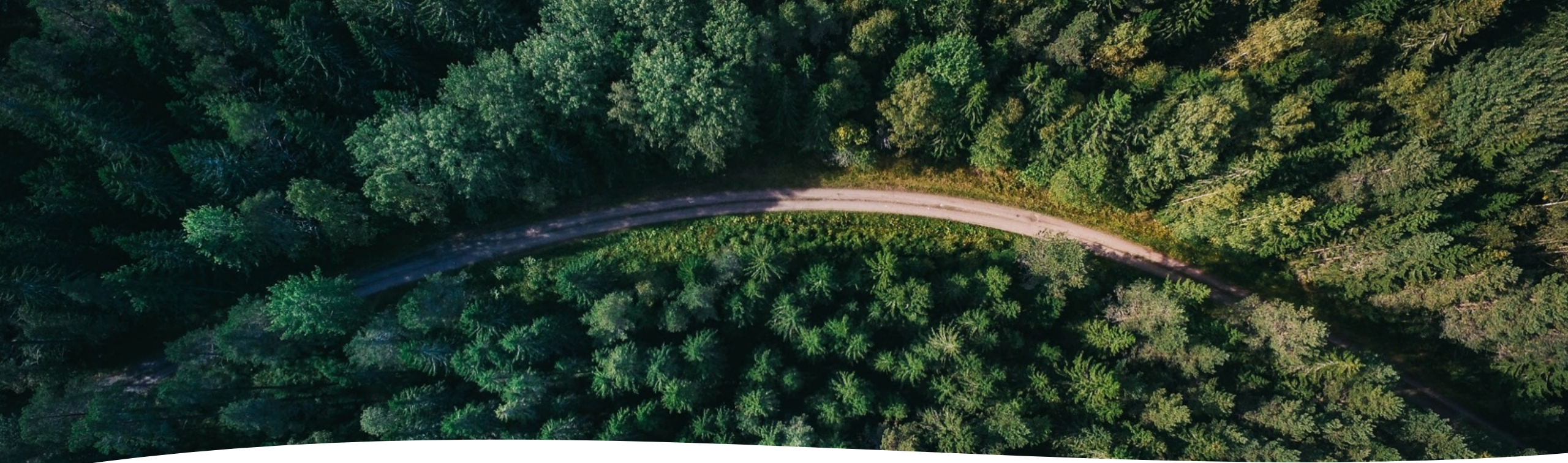


An aerial photograph of a dense forest. A dirt road curves through the trees, separating a section of taller, darker green trees on the left from a section of shorter, lighter green trees on the right. The lighting suggests a bright day, with some shadows cast on the ground.

Luke 12:1-3

¹ Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy**.”

² **There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.** ³ What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.



Silence trusts God's timing
for justice.

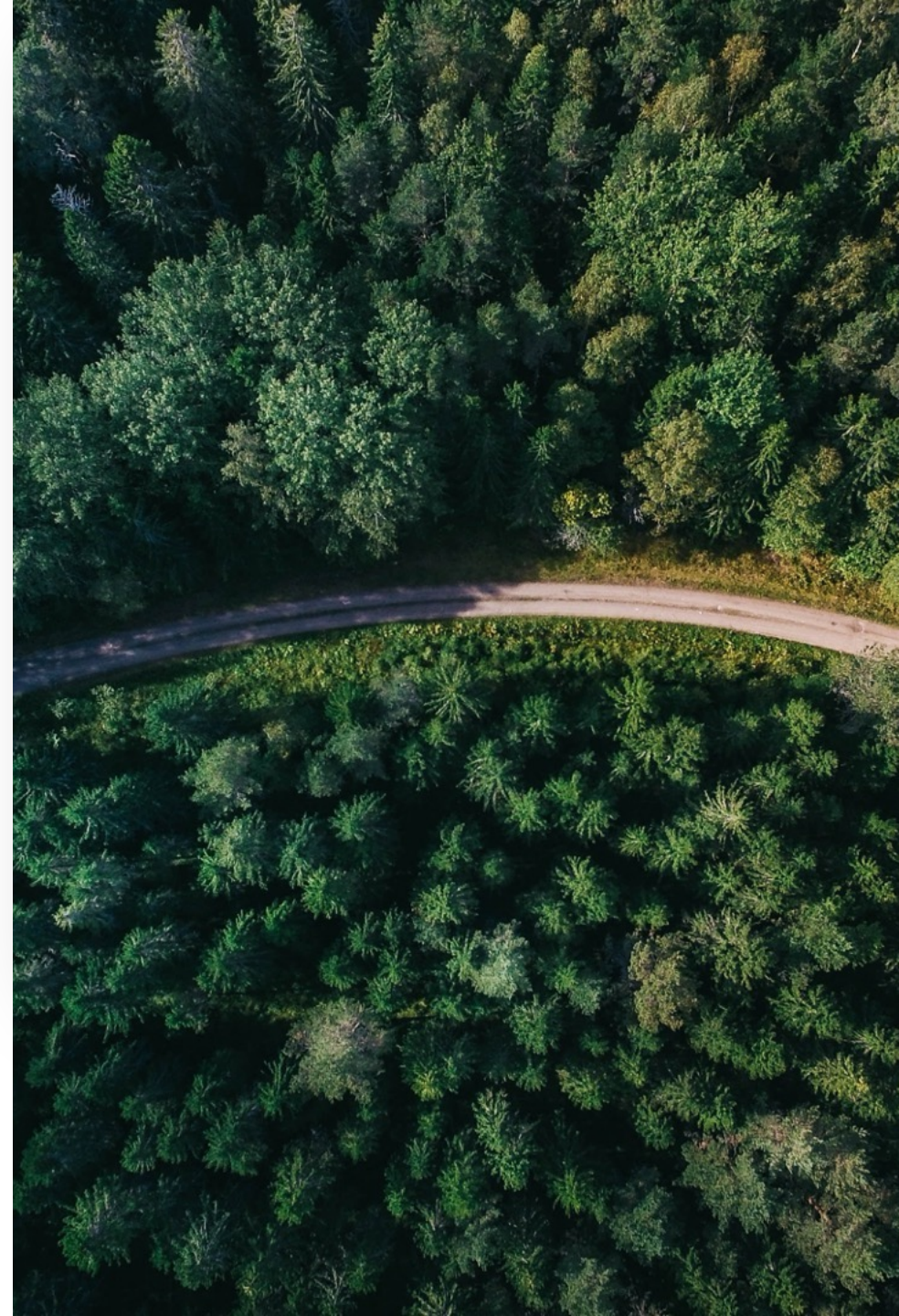
But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. (Mark 14:60)

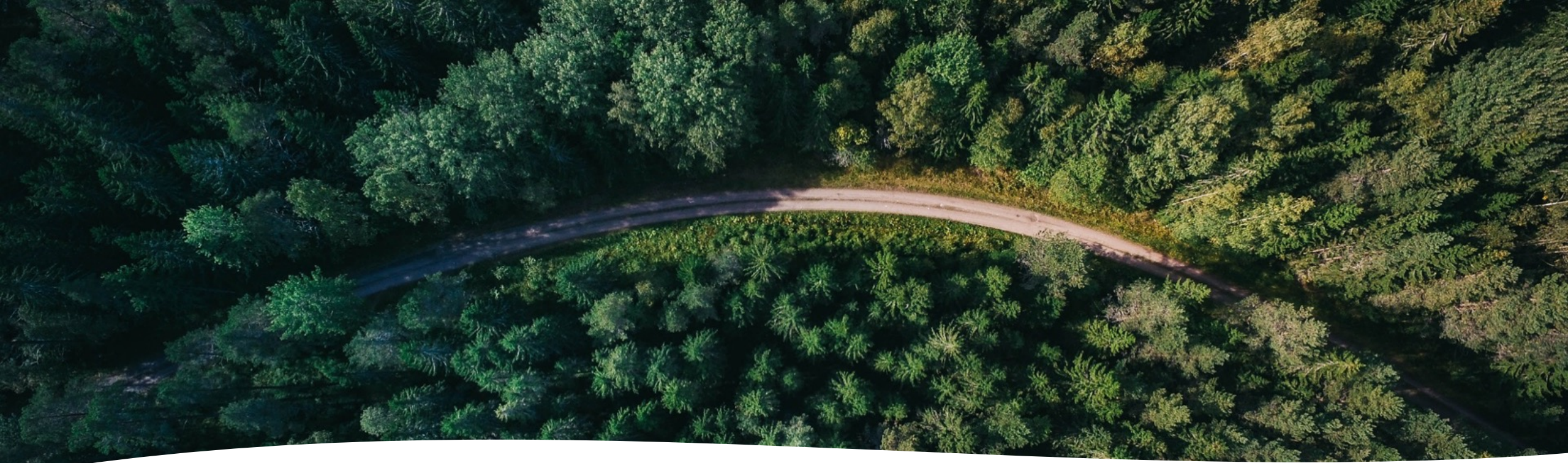
Mark 14:61-62

⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” ⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again, the high priest asked him, “**Are you the Messiah**, the Son of the Blessed One?”

⁶² “**I am**,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”





Jesus doesn't **react** to lies.
He **responds** to truth.

"I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." (Mark 14:62)

Mark 15:1-5

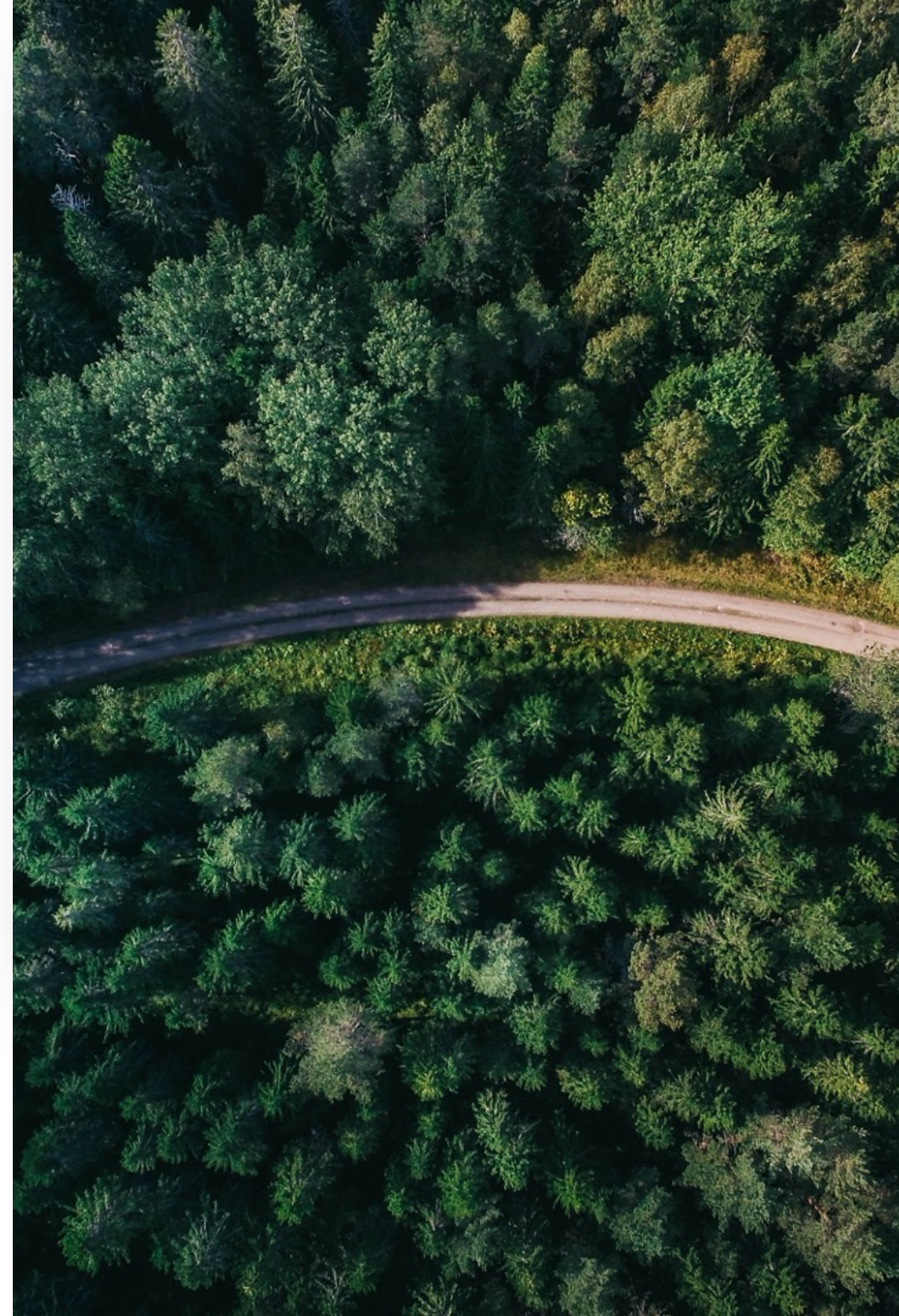
¹ Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

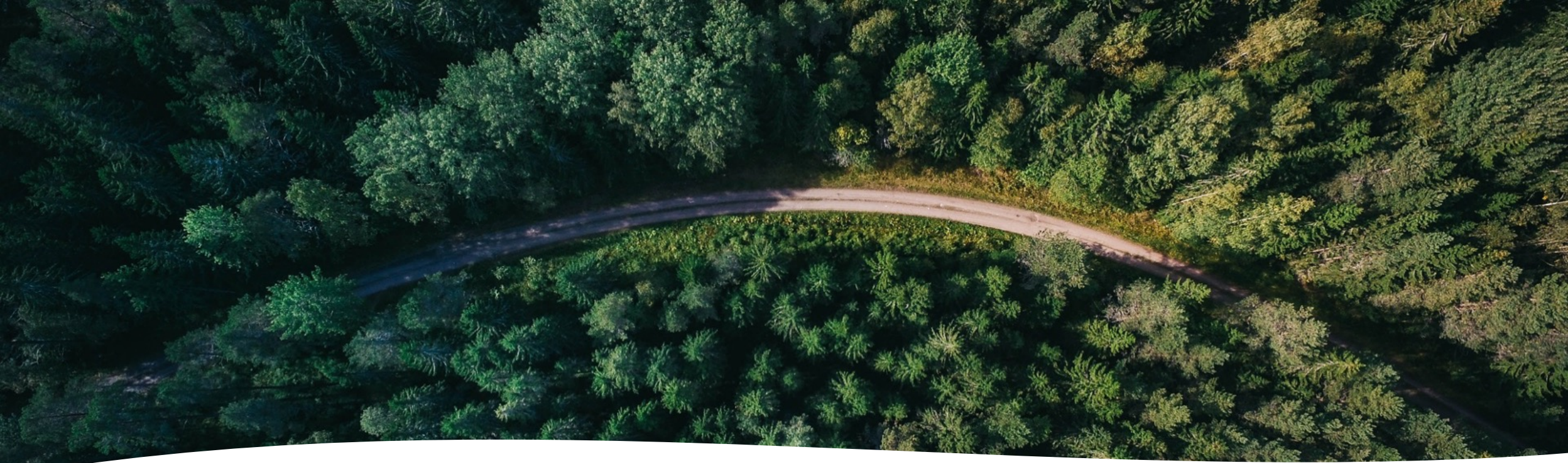
² “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

³ The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”

⁵ But Jesus still **made no reply**, and Pilate was **amazed**.





Jesus doesn't **react** to lies.
He **responds** to truth.

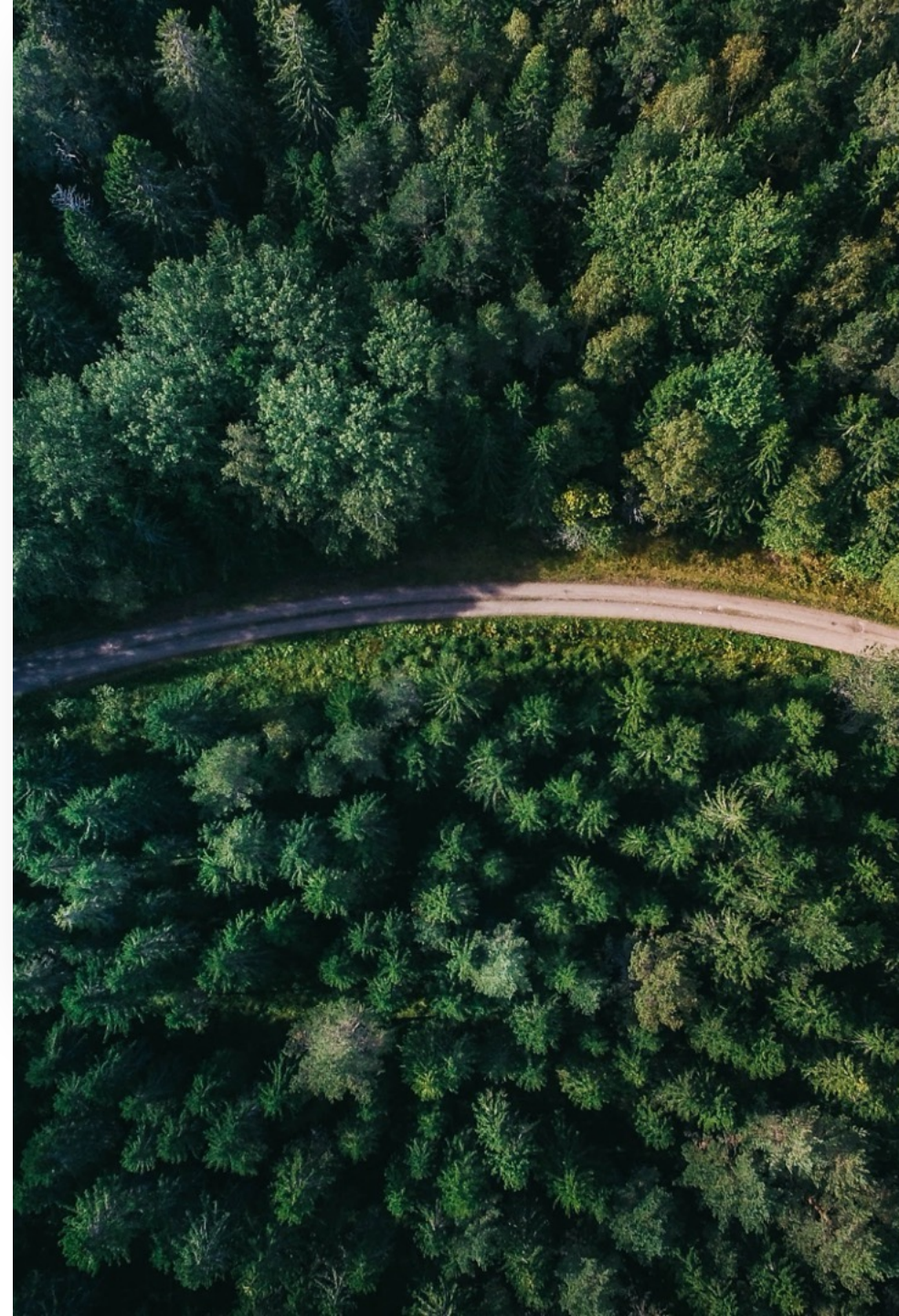
"I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." (Mark 14:62)


Mark 14:63-65

⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. ⁶⁴ “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned him as worthy of death. ⁶⁵ Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

(Next: Peter Disowns Jesus - Mark 14:66-72)



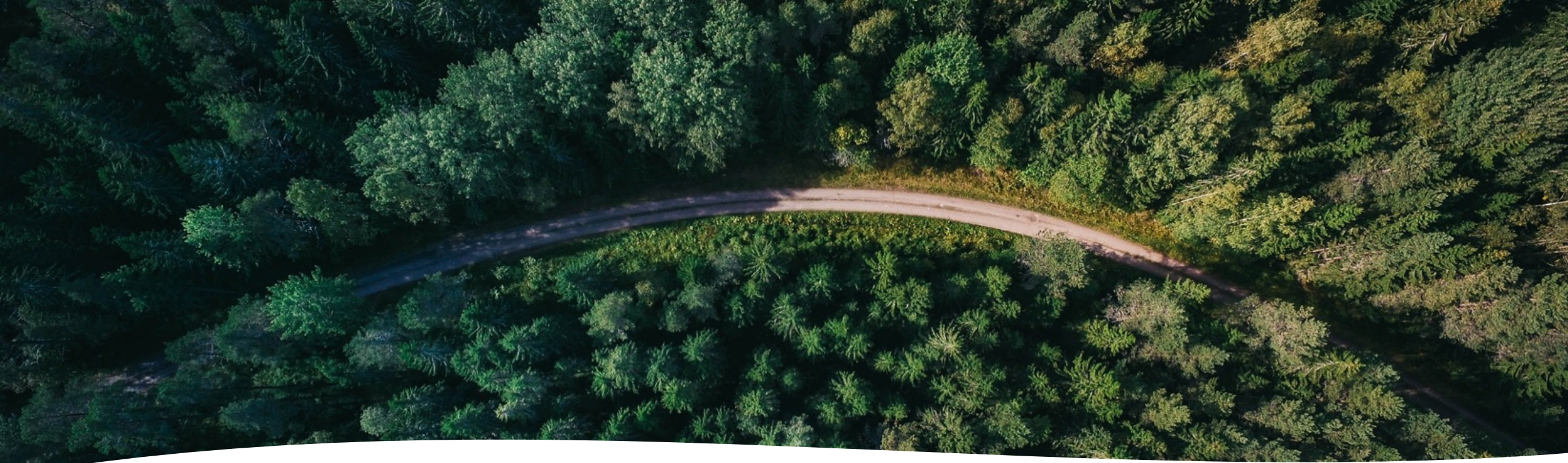
An aerial photograph of a dense forest. A dirt road curves through the trees, starting from the left and moving towards the right. The trees are mostly green, with some showing signs of autumn. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Luke 12 (various excerpts)

⁴ “I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more...”

⁸ “I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. ⁹ But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God...”


¹¹ “When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, ¹² for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”



Jesus demonstrated:

Be silent when needed. **Affirm truth** when called.
Trust the Spirit always.

"...do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say." (Luke 12:11-12)

An aerial photograph of a dense forest. A dirt road curves through the trees, starting from the left and curving towards the right. The trees are mostly green, with some showing signs of autumn. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Acts 7:54-60

The Stoning of Stephen

⁵⁴ When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, **full of the Holy Spirit**, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, **“I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”**

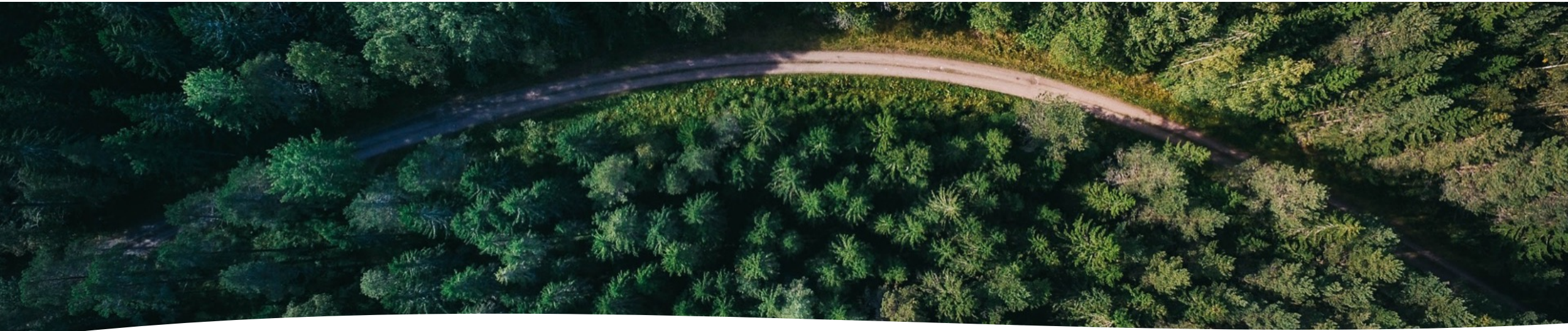
⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him...

⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, **“Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”** When he had said this, he fell asleep.



Luke 23:34

³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”



In times of injustice and hostility
will you **imitate Jesus Christ?**

Silence. Speak. Trust.