

An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest. A 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 word "The" is smaller and positioned above "Gospel".

The Gospel of Mark

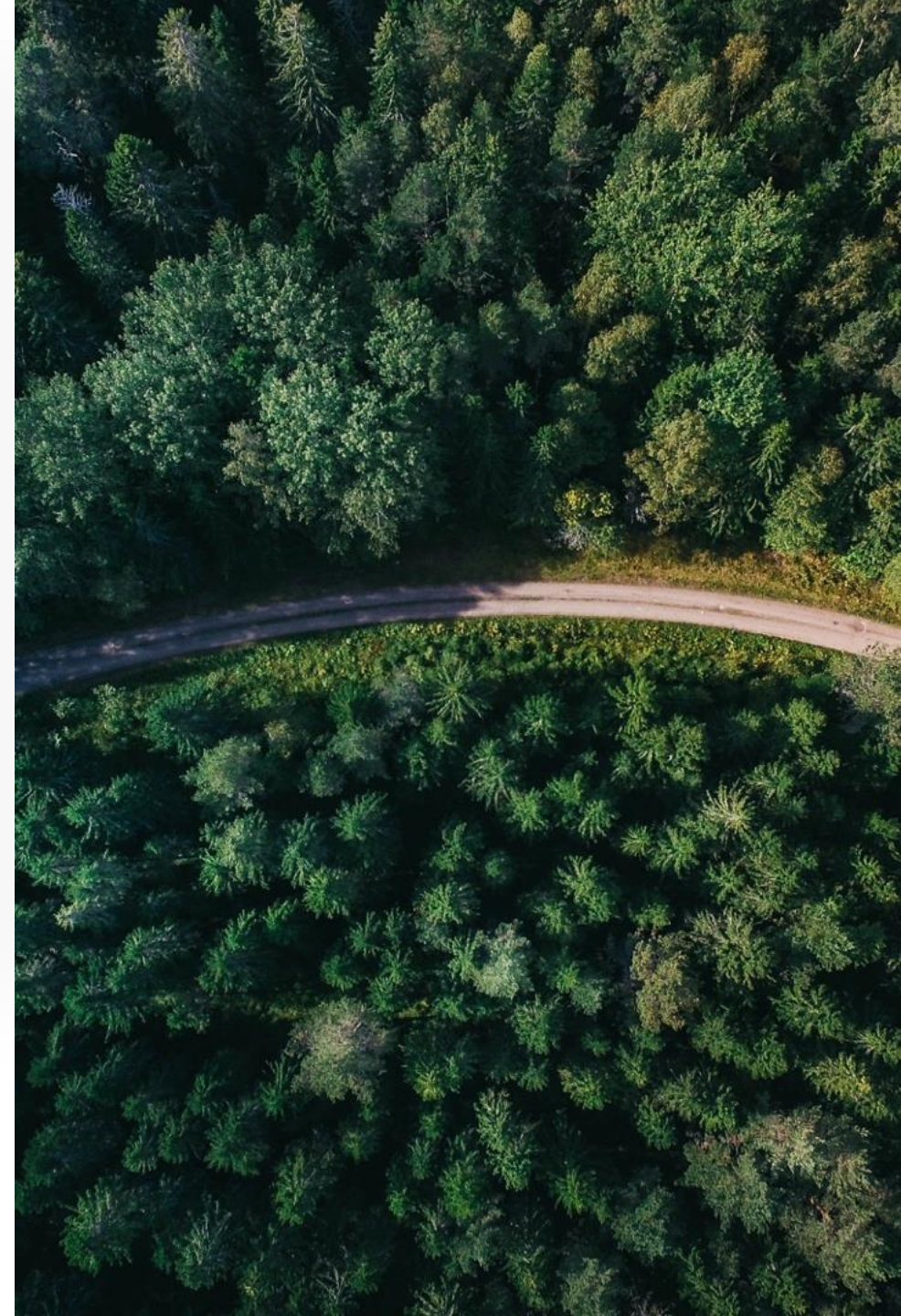
Lessons in Listening Deeply and Sharing Effectively

Mark 4:1-25

Mark 4:1-9 (NLT)

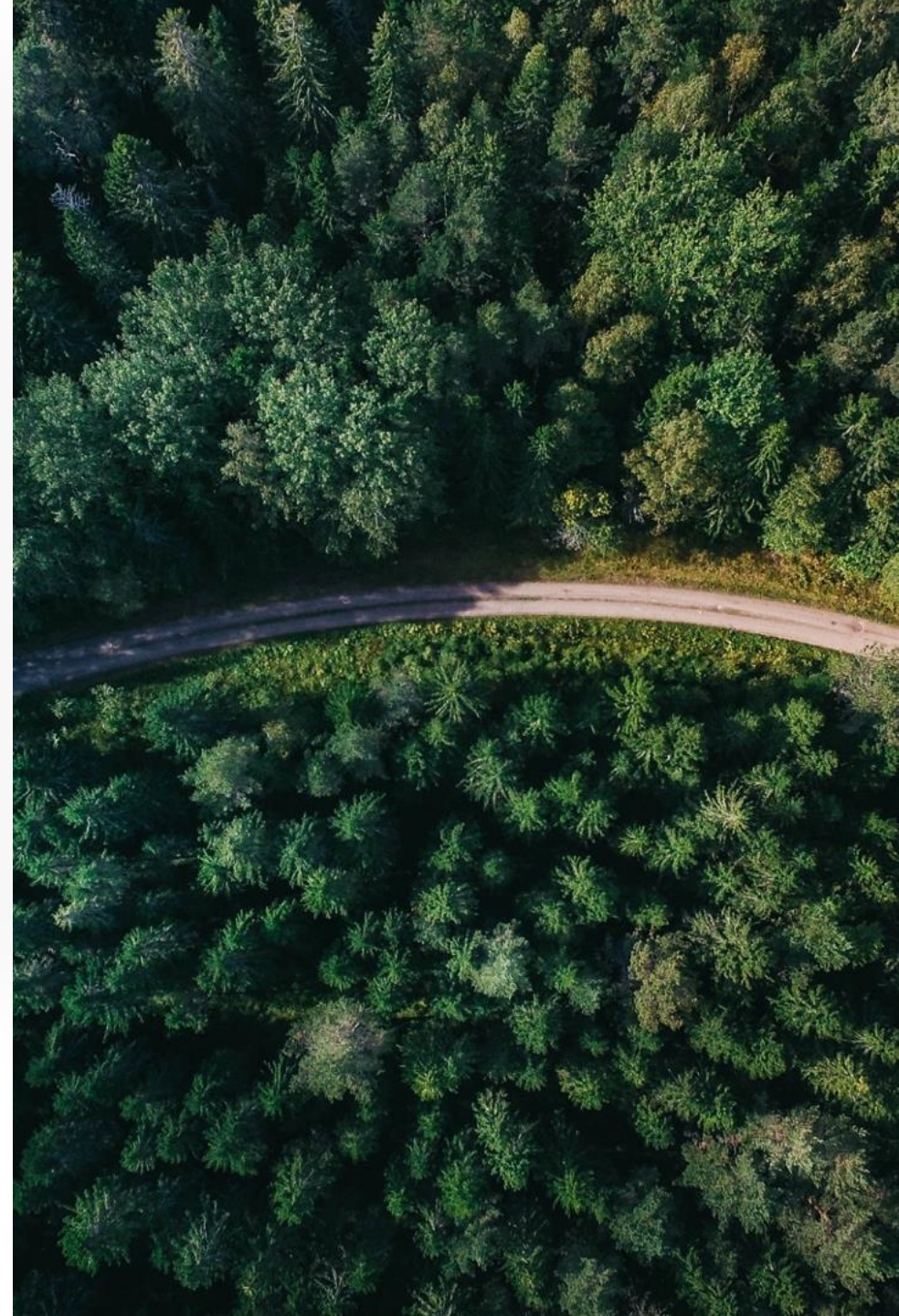
¹ Once again Jesus began **teaching** by the lakeshore. A very large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat in the boat while all the people remained on the shore. ² **He taught them** by telling many stories in the form of **parables**, such as this one:

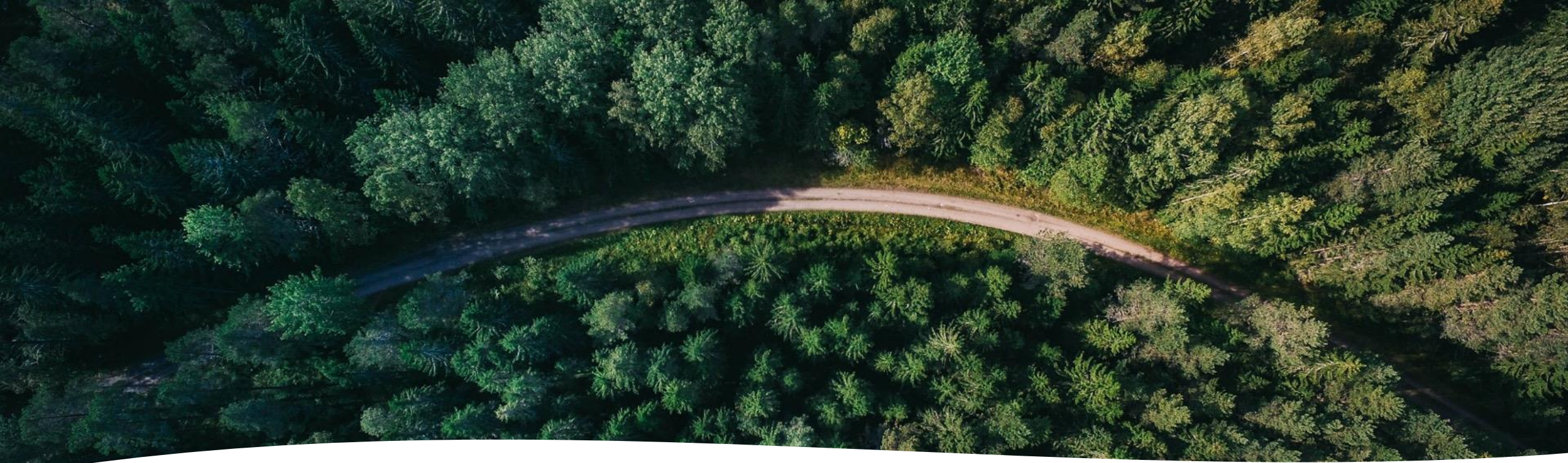
³ “Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. ⁴ As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. ⁵ Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn’t have deep roots, it died. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. ⁸ Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!” ⁹ Then he said, **“Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”**



Ears to Hear

- ⁹ Then he said, **“Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”**
- ¹¹ He replied, “You are permitted to **understand** the secret of the Kingdom of God”
- ¹³ Then Jesus said to them, “If you can’t **understand** the meaning of this parable, how will you **understand** all the other parables?”
- ¹⁴ The farmer plants seed by taking God’s word to others...
- ²⁰ And the seed that fell on good soil represents **those who hear and accept God’s word** and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”
- ²³ **Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”**



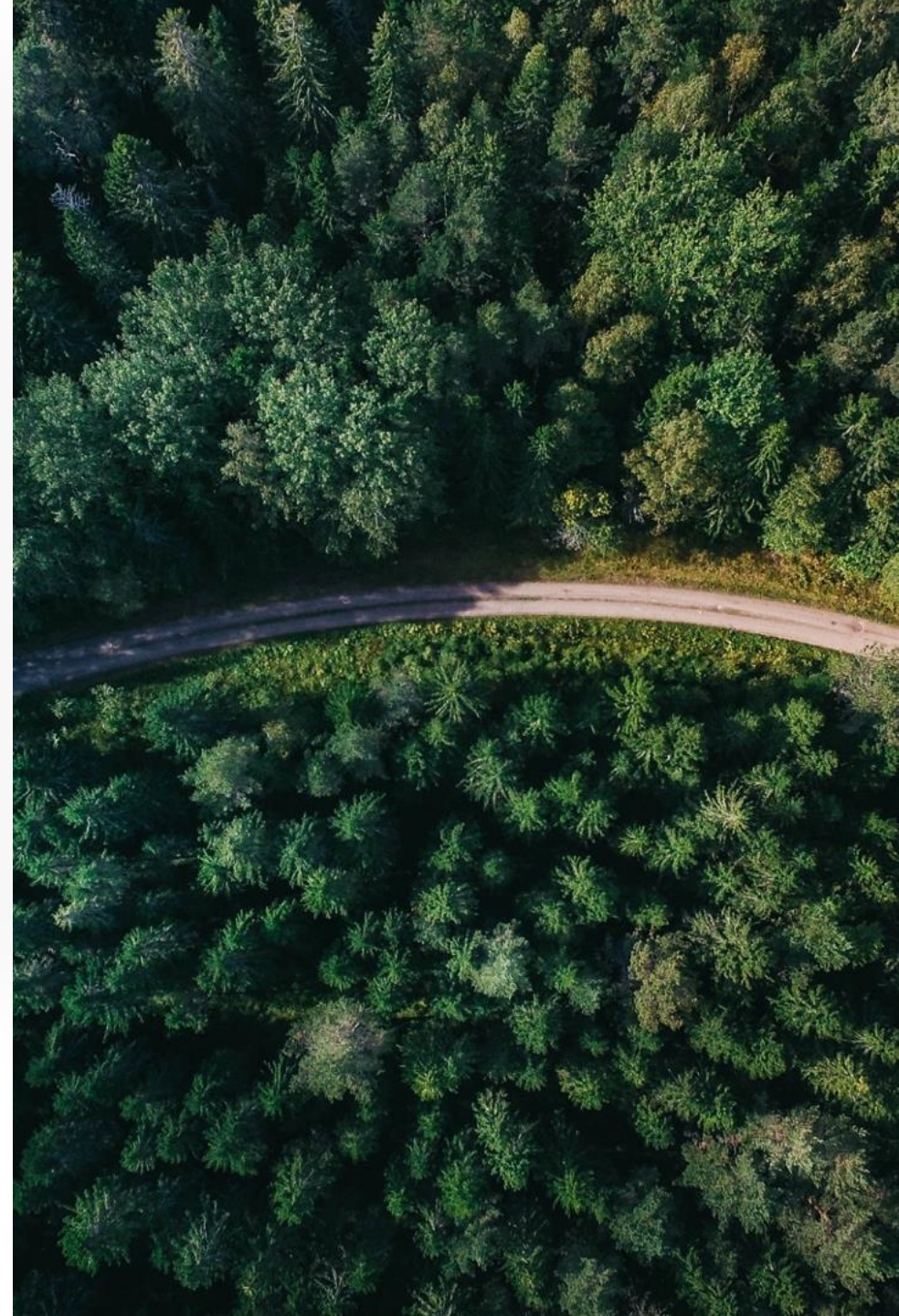


Listening **deeply** is listening with the
intent of understanding.

“Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

Mark 4:24-25 (NLT)

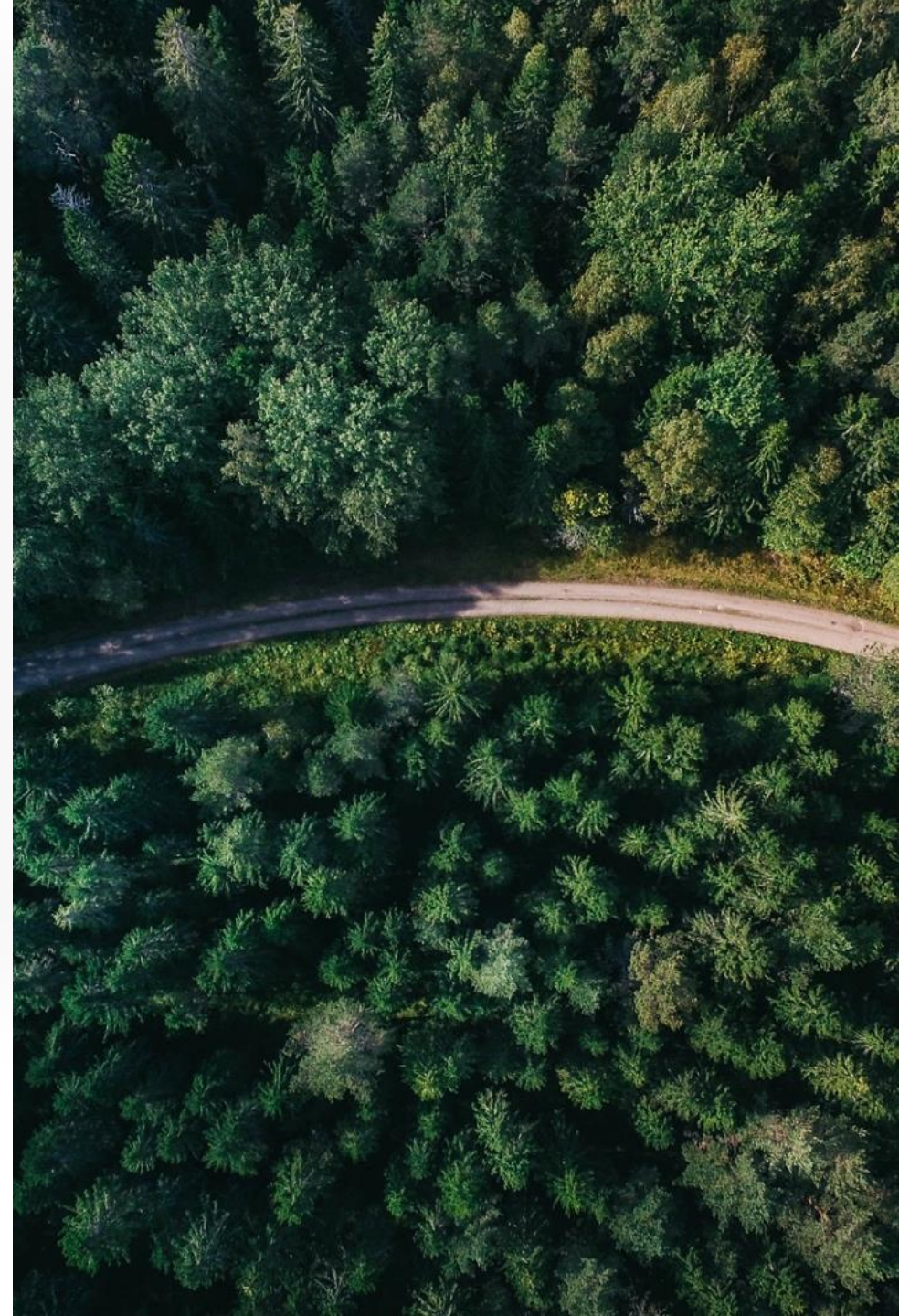
²⁴ Then he added, “Pay **close attention** to what you **hear**. The **closer you listen**, the **more understanding** you will be **given**—and you will receive even more. ²⁵ To **those who listen** to my teaching, **more understanding** will be given. But for those who are **not listening**, even what **little understanding** they have will be taken away from them.”



Mark 4:10-12 (NIV)

¹⁰ When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to **those on the outside** everything is said in **parables** ¹² so that,

“they may be **ever seeing** but **never perceiving**,
and ever **hearing** but **never understanding**;
otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!”





Mark 4:10-12 (The Message)

¹⁰⁻¹² ...“You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom—you know how it works. But to those who can’t see it yet, everything comes in stories, creating readiness, nudging them toward a welcome awakening. These are people—

Whose eyes are open but don’t see a thing,
Whose ears are open but don’t understand a word,
Who avoid making an about-face and getting forgiven.”



Remez = Hint

“they may be **ever seeing** but **never perceiving**,
and ever **hearing** but **never understanding**;
otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!”^[a]”



Remez = Hint

Isaiah 6:8-11 (NIV)

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

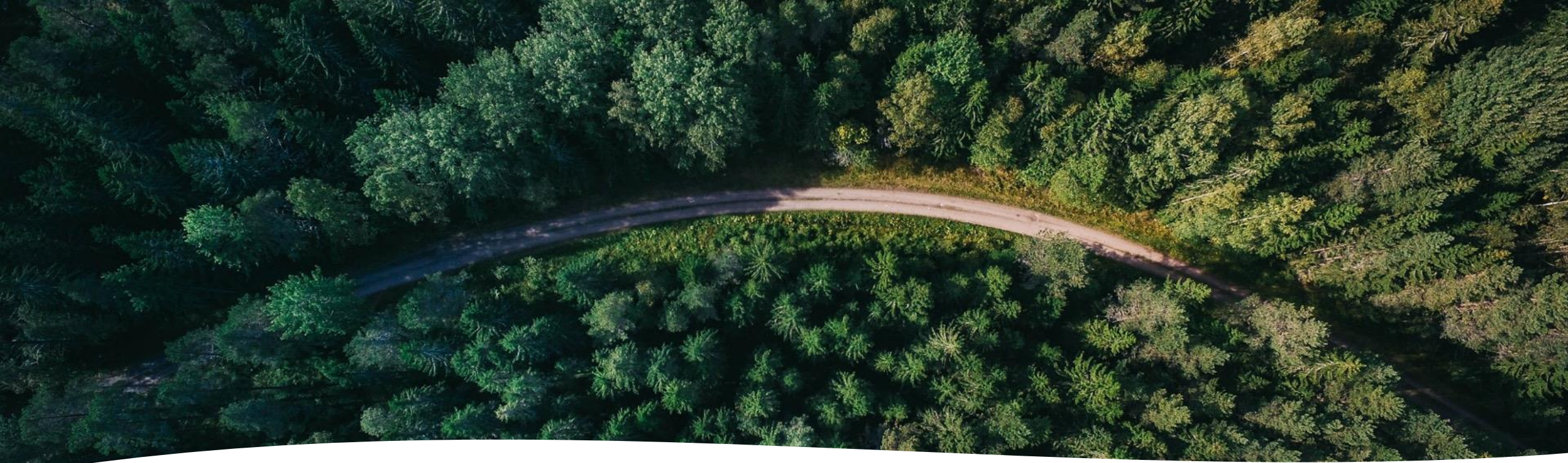
⁹ He said, “Go and tell this people:

“‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding;
be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’

¹⁰ Make the heart of this people calloused;
make their ears dull
and close their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed.”

¹¹ Then I said, “**For how long, Lord?**”

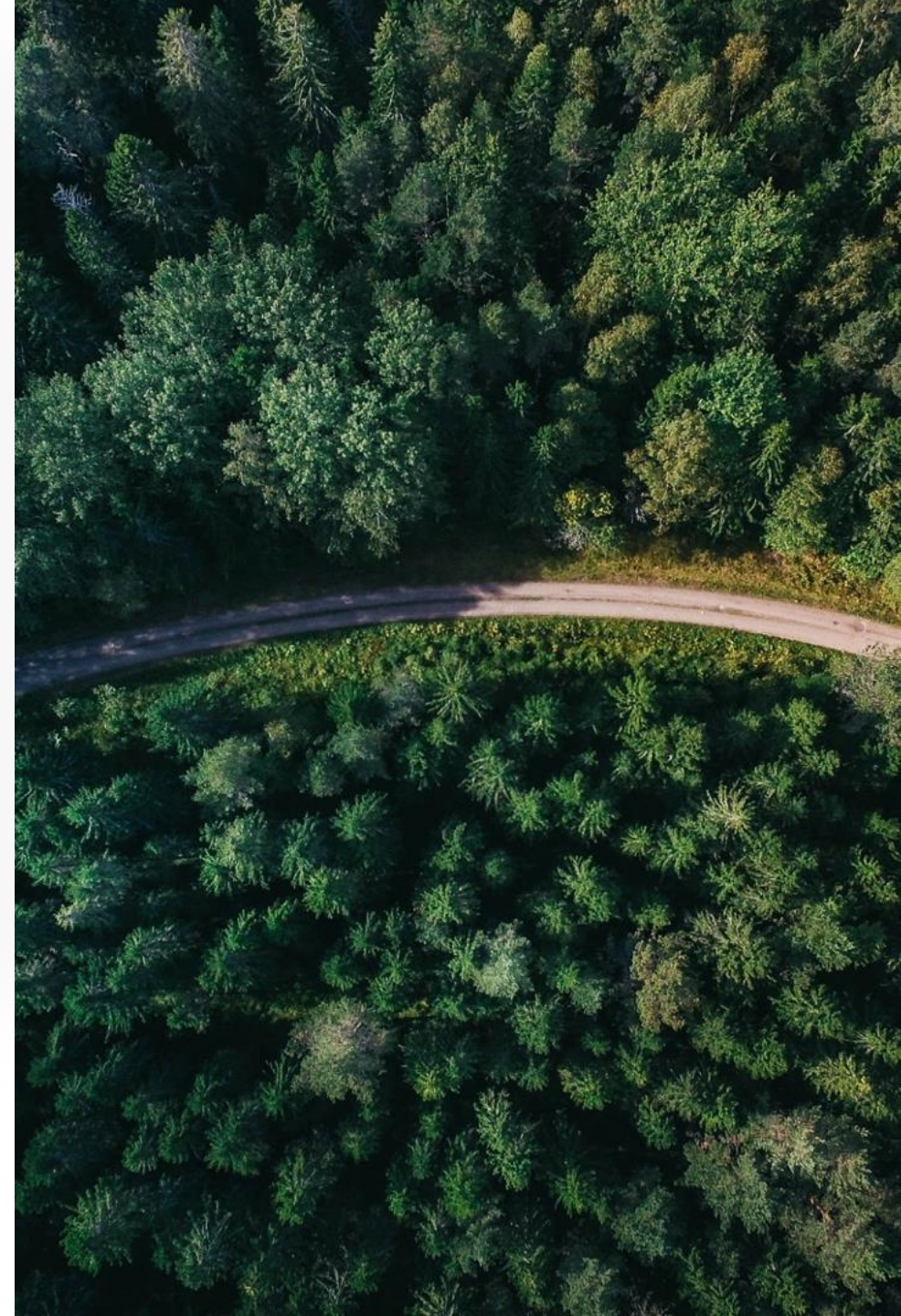


**Not everyone is ready to hear the
same word.**

Sometimes people need to go on a journey before they are
ready to hear the unfiltered word.

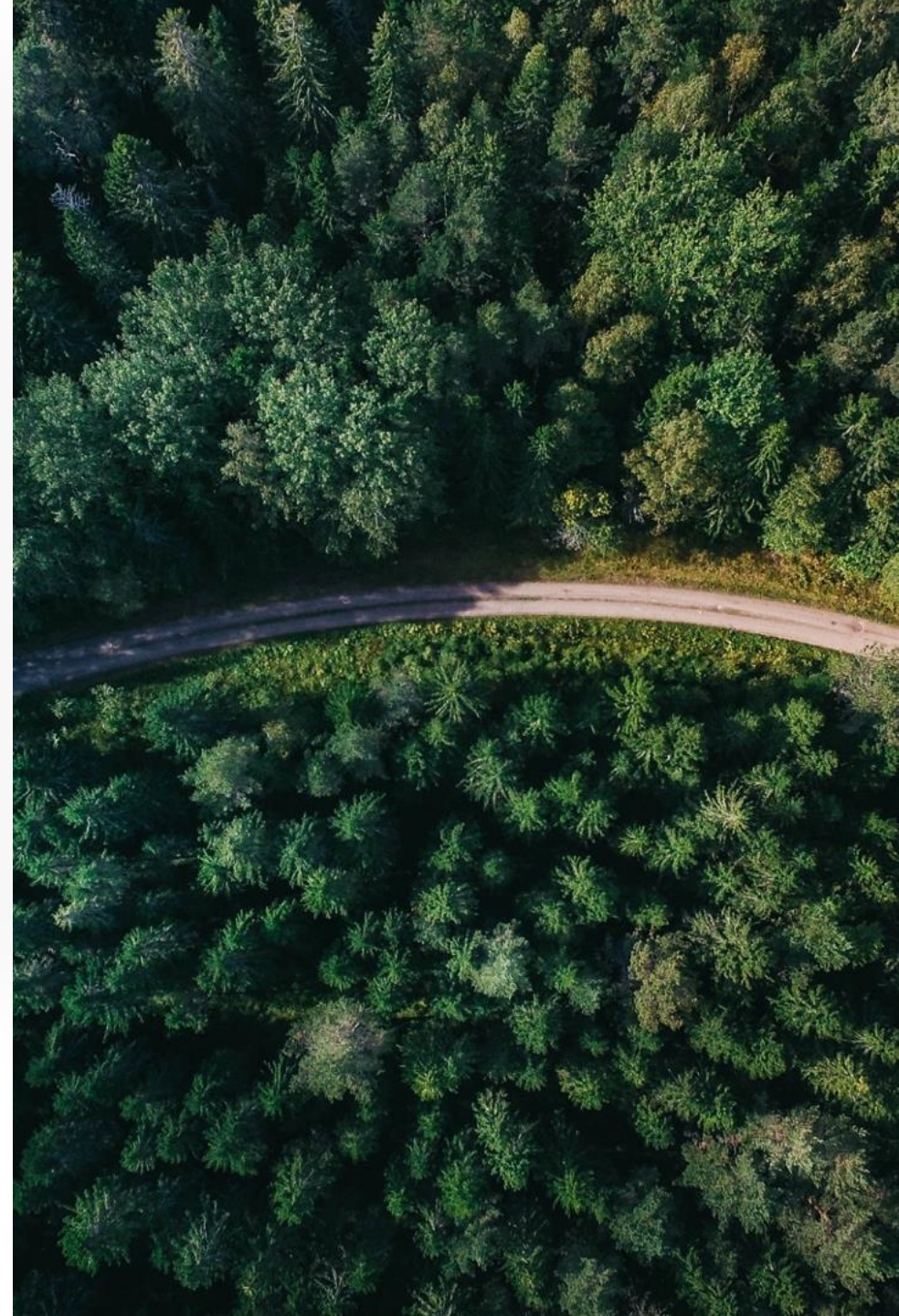
Mark 4:14-20 (NLT)

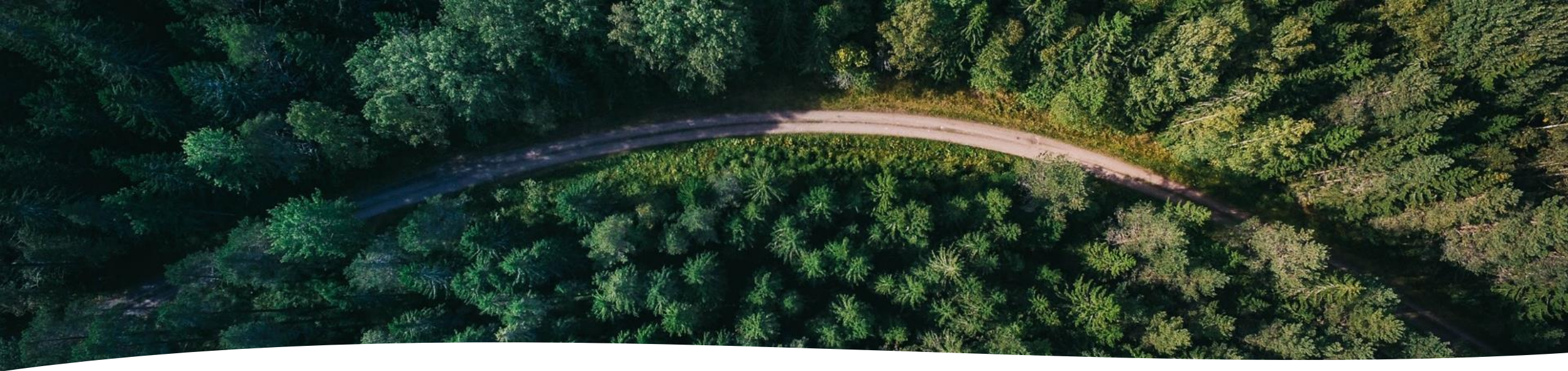
¹⁴ The farmer plants **seed** by taking **God's word** to others. ¹⁵ The seed that fell on the **footpath** represents those who **hear** the message, only to have **Satan** come at once and **take it away**. ¹⁶ The seed on the **rocky** soil represents those who **hear** the message and immediately receive it with **joy**. ¹⁷ But since they **don't have deep roots**, they don't last long. They **fall away** as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. ¹⁸ The seed that fell among the **thorns** represents others who **hear God's word**, ¹⁹ but all too quickly the message is **crowded out** by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced. ²⁰ And the seed that fell on **good soil** represents those who **hear and accept God's word** and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"



Mark 4:11 (NIV)

¹¹ He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables



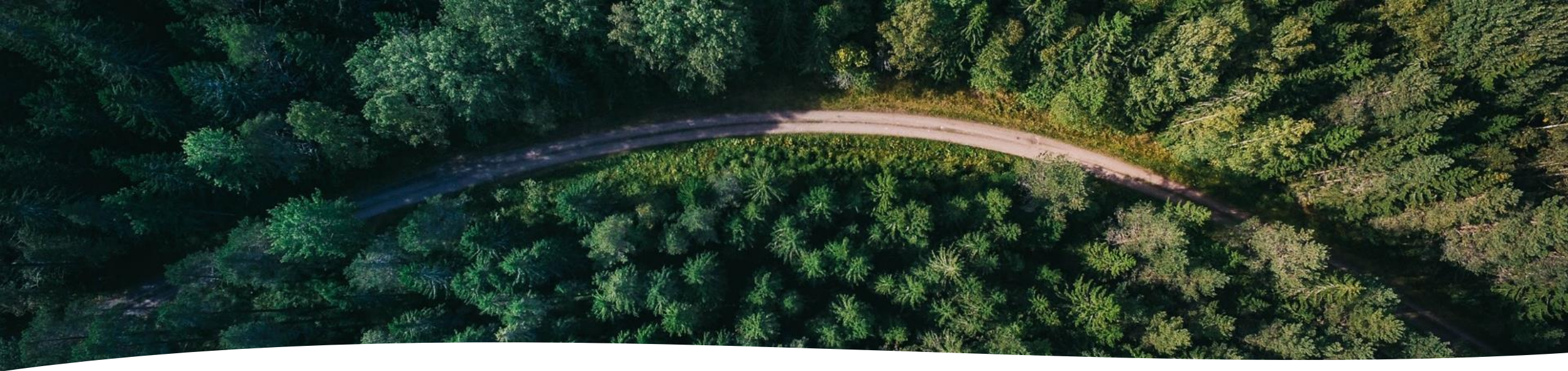


HEARING THE WORD

Listen deeply

Anyone with ears should
listen and understand

Good soil



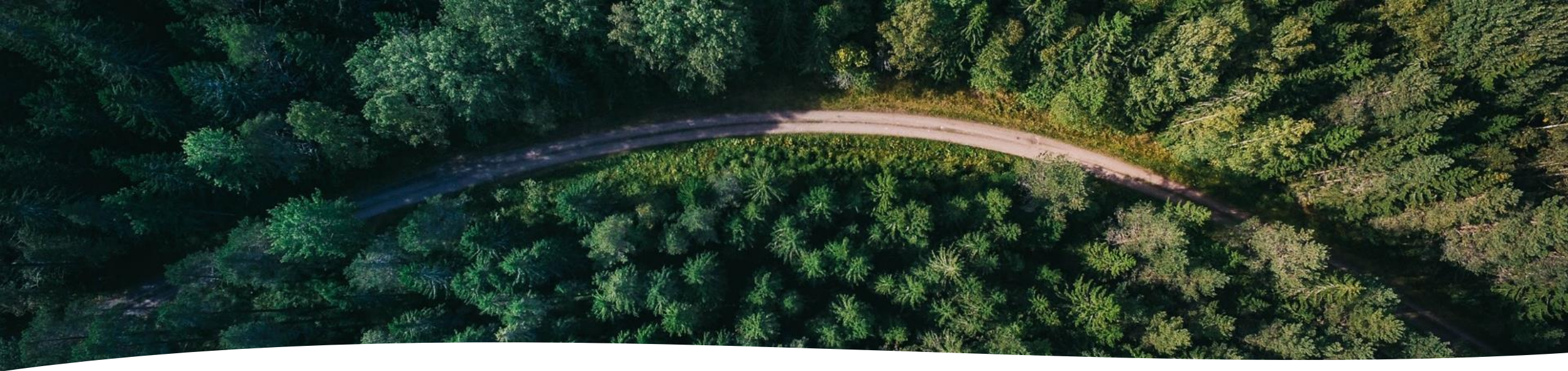
HEARING THE WORD

Listen deeply

Anyone with ears should
listen and understand

Good soil

Then he added, “Pay close attention to what you hear. The **closer you listen**, the **more understanding** you will be **given**—and you will receive even more. (Mark 4:24)



HEARING THE WORD

Listen deeply

Anyone with ears should
listen and understand

Good soil

SHARING THE WORD

Not everyone is ready to
hear the same word

Consider the soil where you
are called to share