



I SAMUEL

Turnarounds

a *Central* series
ASSEMBLY

An aerial photograph of a two-lane asphalt road that curves sharply to the right. The road is flanked by dense forest with trees displaying vibrant autumn colors in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The overall image has a dark, moody overlay.

Refocusing Our Relationships

1 SAMUEL 14:6

I SAMUEL 14:6

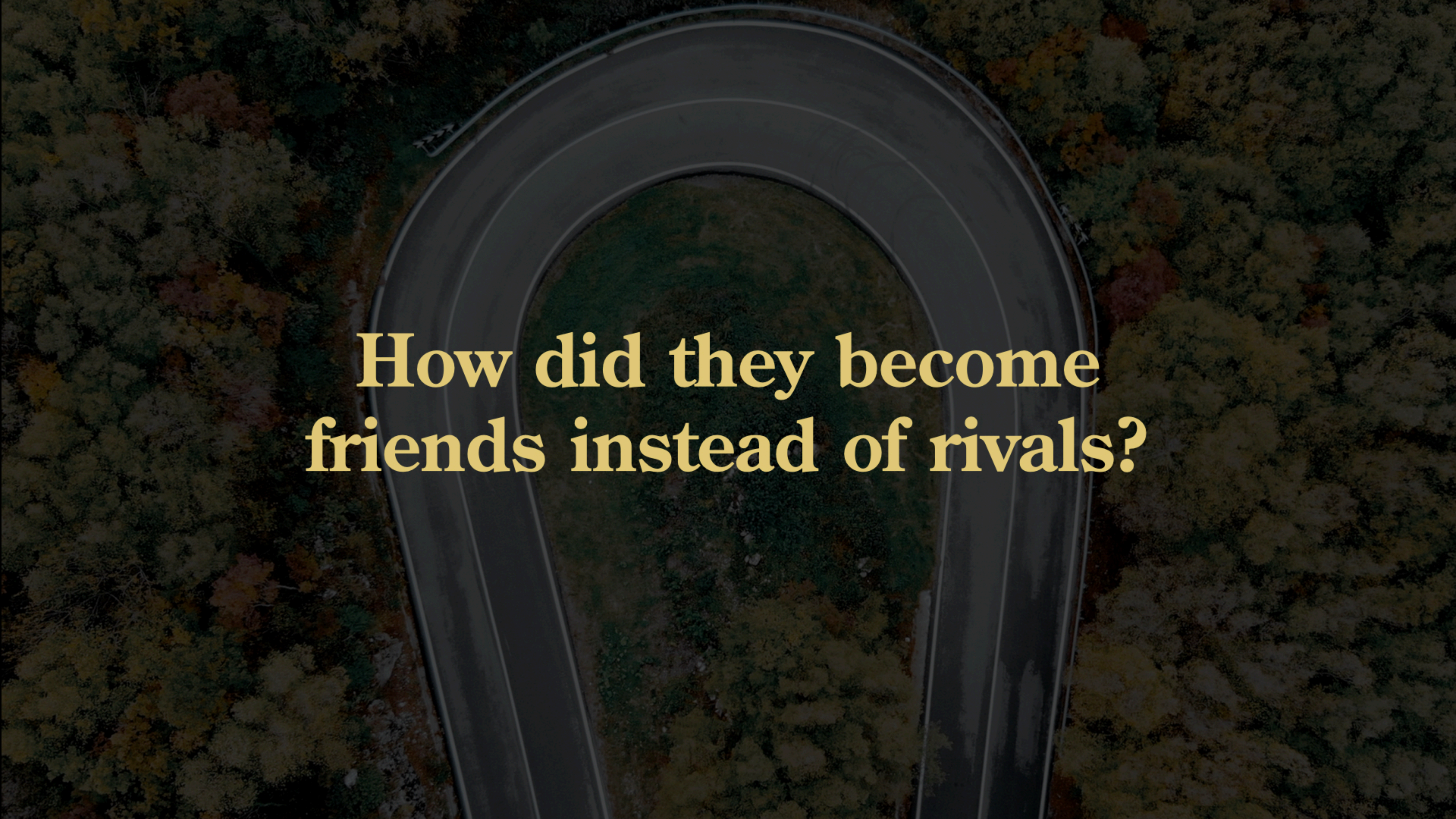
⁶ Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, “Come, let’s go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the Lord will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the Lord from saving, whether by many or by few.”

I SAMUEL 17:45

⁴⁵ **David** said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

I SAMUEL 18:1

¹ After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself.

An aerial photograph of a two-lane asphalt road that curves sharply to the right. The road is flanked by dense forest with trees displaying vibrant autumn colors in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The overall image has a dark, moody tone with a semi-transparent black overlay.

**How did they become
friends instead of rivals?**

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense forest. The trees are covered in autumn foliage, with shades of yellow, orange, and brown. The road is dark and appears to be made of asphalt. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down on the road and the surrounding forest.

**How did they become
friends instead of rivals?**

Jonathan resisted the temptation
to keep to himself. [Isolation]

I SAMUEL 18:3-4

³ And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴ Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

**How did they become
friends instead of rivals?**

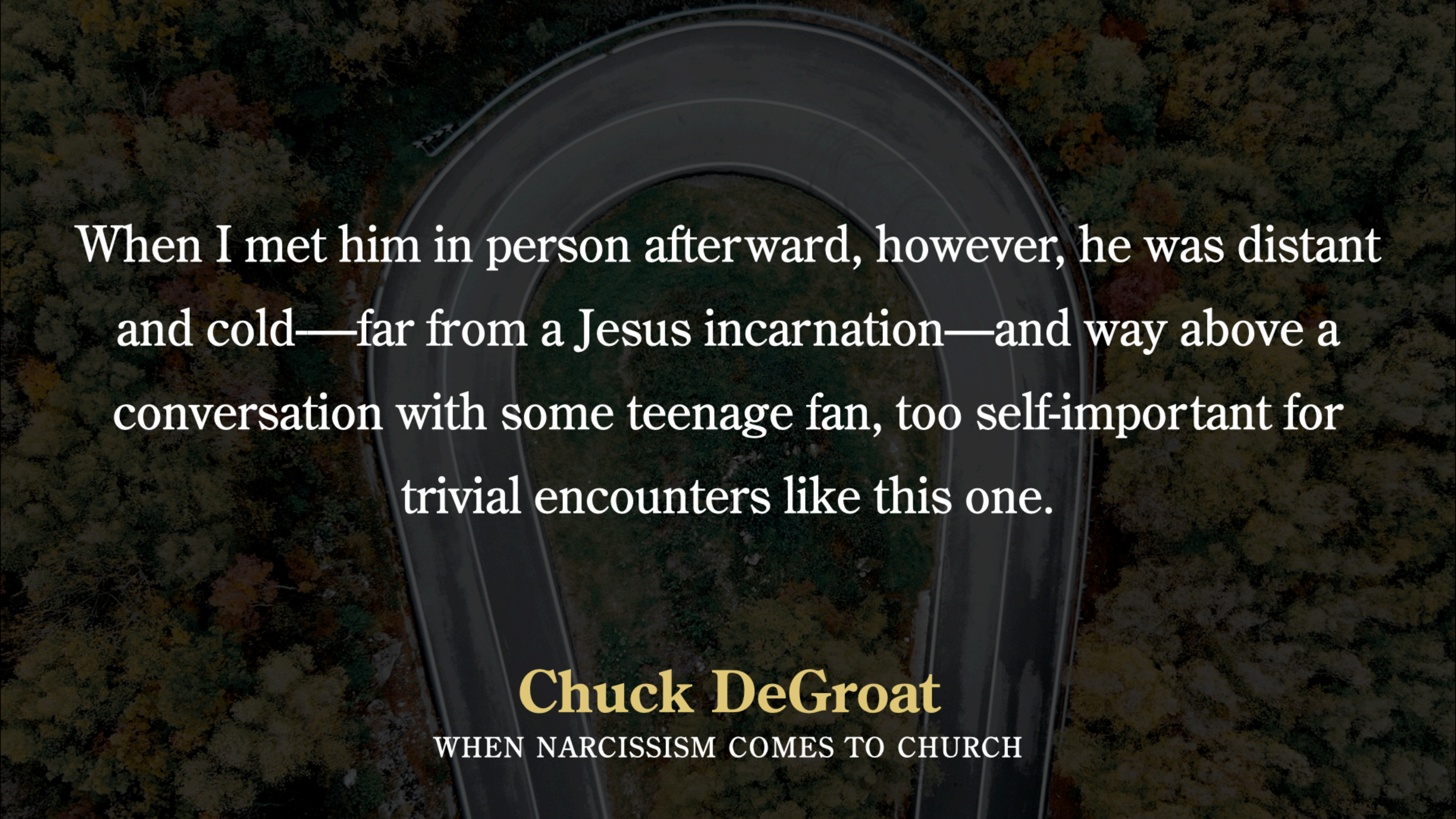
Jonathan resisted the temptation
to keep to himself. [Isolation]

Jonathan resisted the temptation
to make it all about himself. [Narcissism]

“Naively, I assumed most Christians were all about navigating [the] humble way. So when I met my first Christian ‘celebrity’ while still in high school, I expected an incarnation of Jesus. On stage, he wooed and wowed, with arms waving and a smile so big you could see it from the back row of the auditorium.

Chuck DeGroat

WHEN NARCISSISM COMES TO CHURCH

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense forest. The trees are covered in autumn foliage, with shades of yellow, orange, and brown visible. The road has white lane markings and a small arrow pointing forward on the left side. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down at the road as it disappears into the woods.

When I met him in person afterward, however, he was distant and cold—far from a Jesus incarnation—and way above a conversation with some teenage fan, too self-important for trivial encounters like this one.

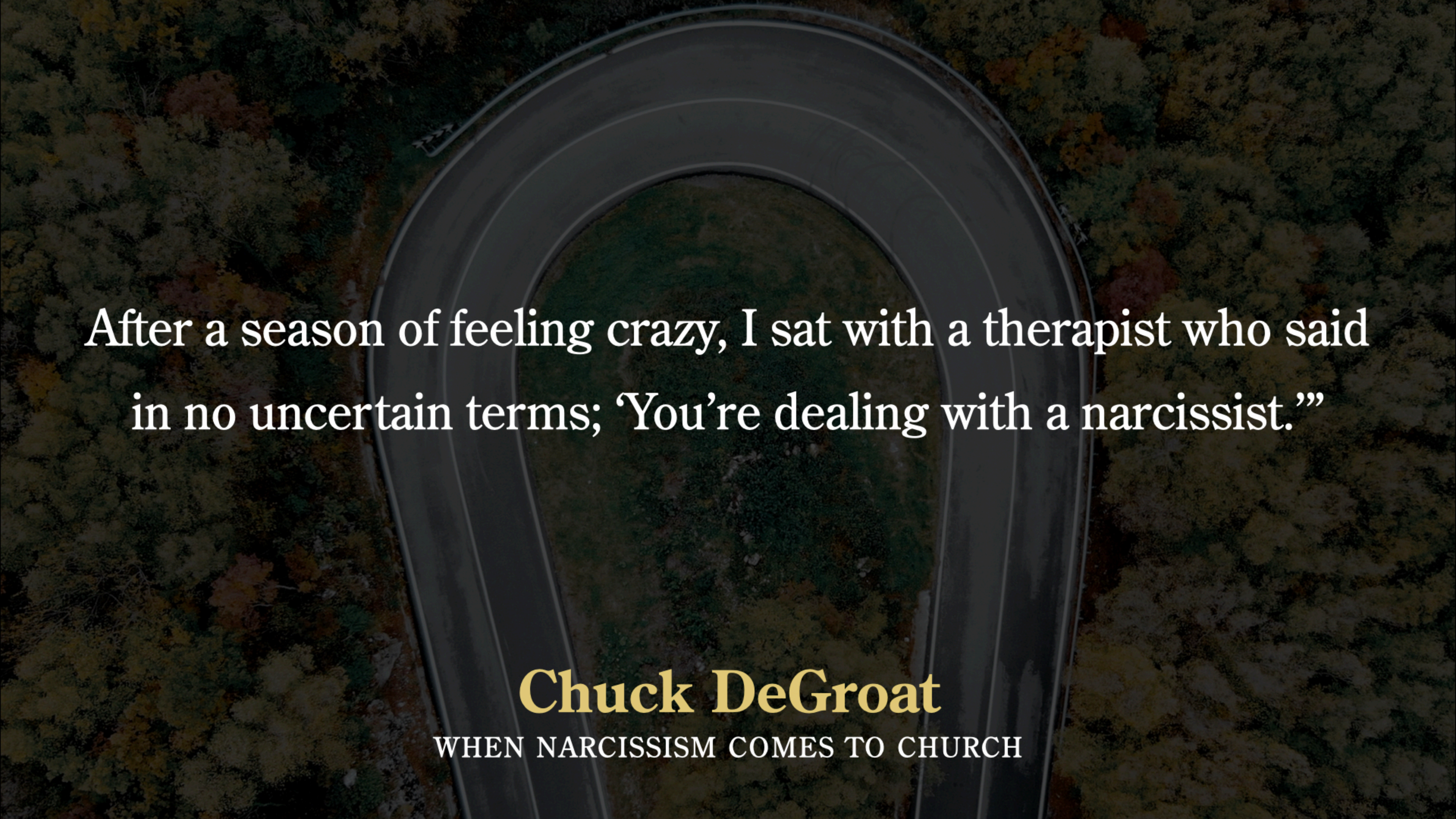
Chuck DeGroat

WHEN NARCISSISM COMES TO CHURCH

On that day I felt narcissism's ugly bite... About ten years later, narcissism's bite returned with a vengeance, this time from a charming and charismatic ministry peer whose affirmations of me would cause my soul to soar, but whose secretive, suspicious, and sometimes sinister machinations confused and even frightened me.

Chuck DeGroat

WHEN NARCISSISM COMES TO CHURCH

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense forest. The trees are covered in autumn foliage, with shades of yellow, orange, and brown visible. The road is dark and has white lane markings. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down on the road as it curves through the woods.

After a season of feeling crazy, I sat with a therapist who said
in no uncertain terms; ‘You’re dealing with a narcissist.’”

Chuck DeGroat

WHEN NARCISSISM COMES TO CHURCH

I SAMUEL 18:5-9

⁵ Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul's officers as well.

I SAMUEL 18:5-9

⁶ When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres.

⁷ As they danced, they sang:

“Saul has slain his thousands,
and David his tens of thousands.”

I SAMUEL 18:5-9

⁸ Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. “They have credited David with tens of thousands,” he thought, “but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?” ⁹ And from that time on Saul kept a close eye on David.

I SAMUEL 19:4

⁴ Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, “Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly.

I SAMUEL 20:32-33

³² “Why should he be put to death? What has he done?”

Jonathan asked his father. ³³ But Saul hurled his spear at him to kill him. Then Jonathan knew that his father intended to kill David.

I SAMUEL 23:17-18

¹⁷ “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this.” ¹⁸ The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.

An aerial photograph of a two-lane asphalt road that curves sharply to the right. The road is surrounded by a dense forest with trees displaying vibrant autumn colors in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. The lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day. The text "What would it be like to be your friend?" is superimposed in the center of the image in a white, serif font.

What would it be like to be your friend?

An aerial photograph of a two-lane asphalt road that curves through a dense forest. The trees are covered in autumn foliage, with shades of yellow, orange, and brown. The road has white lane markings and a small arrow pointing forward on the left side. The overall image has a dark, slightly desaturated tone.

What would it be like to be your friend?

What would it be like to work for you?

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense forest. The trees are covered in autumn foliage, with shades of yellow, orange, and brown. The road has white lane markings and a small arrow pointing forward on the left side. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down at the road as it disappears into the woods.

What would it be like to be your friend?

What would it be like to work for you?

What would it be like to be married to you?

An aerial photograph of a two-lane asphalt road that curves through a dense forest. The trees are covered in autumn foliage, with shades of yellow, orange, and brown visible. The road has white lane markings and a small arrow pointing in the direction of travel. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down at the road and the surrounding woods.

**Jonathan did not keep to himself
or make it all about himself...**

Just like Jesus!

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-8

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.

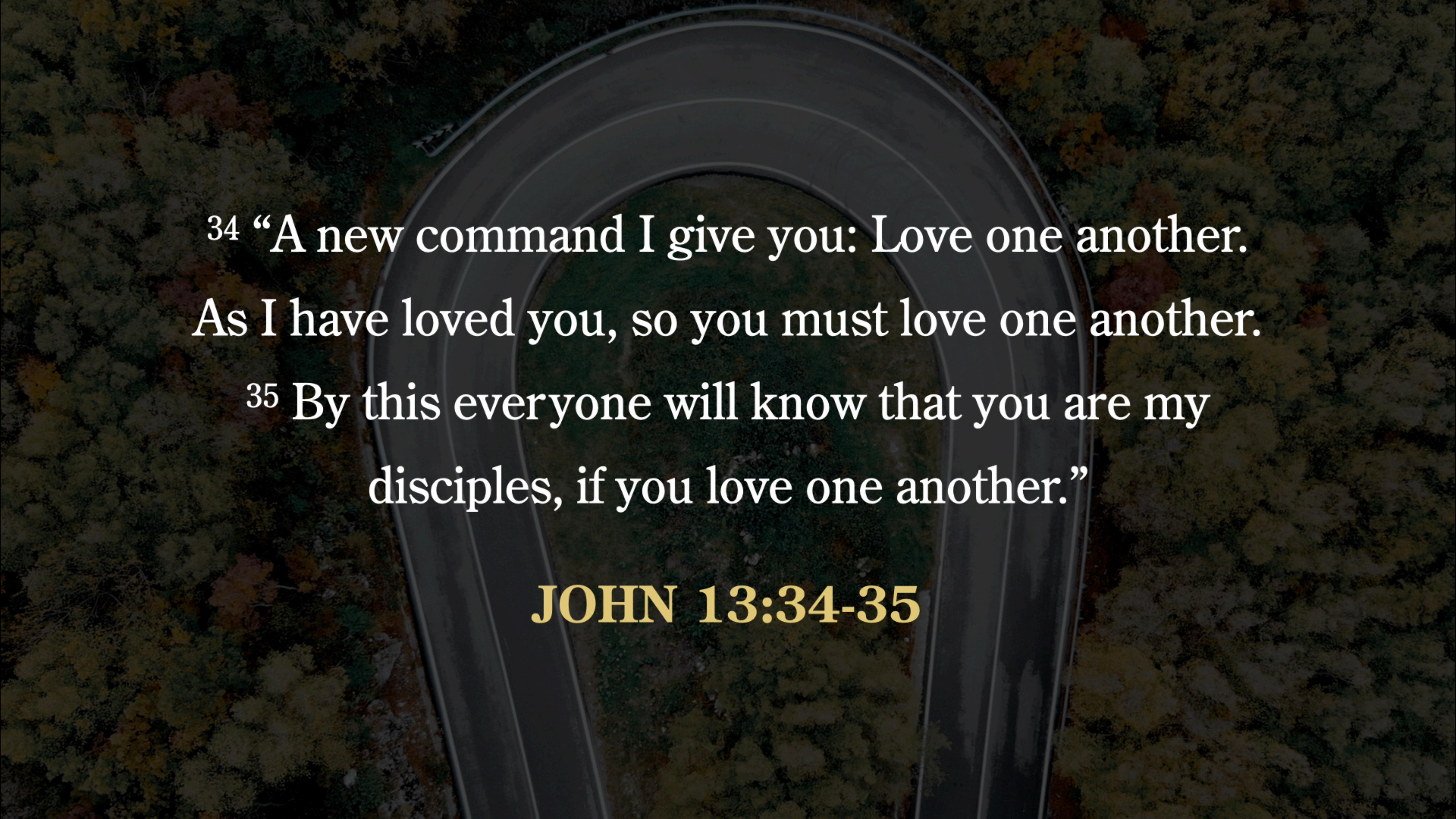
Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-8

⁵ In your relationships with one another, **have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:** ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-8

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!



³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my
disciples, if you love one another.”

JOHN 13:34-35



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