

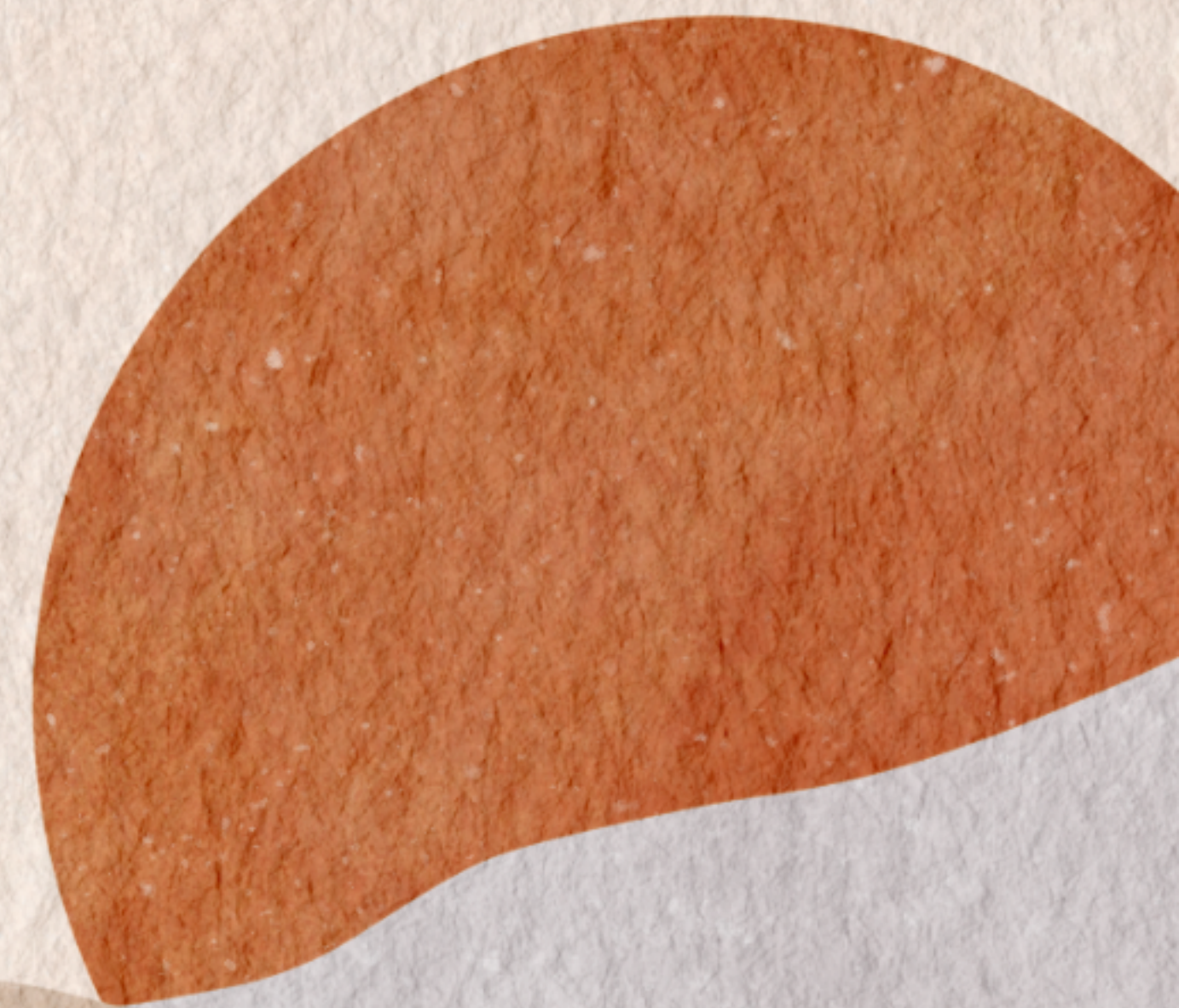
Living Faith

A study in the book of James



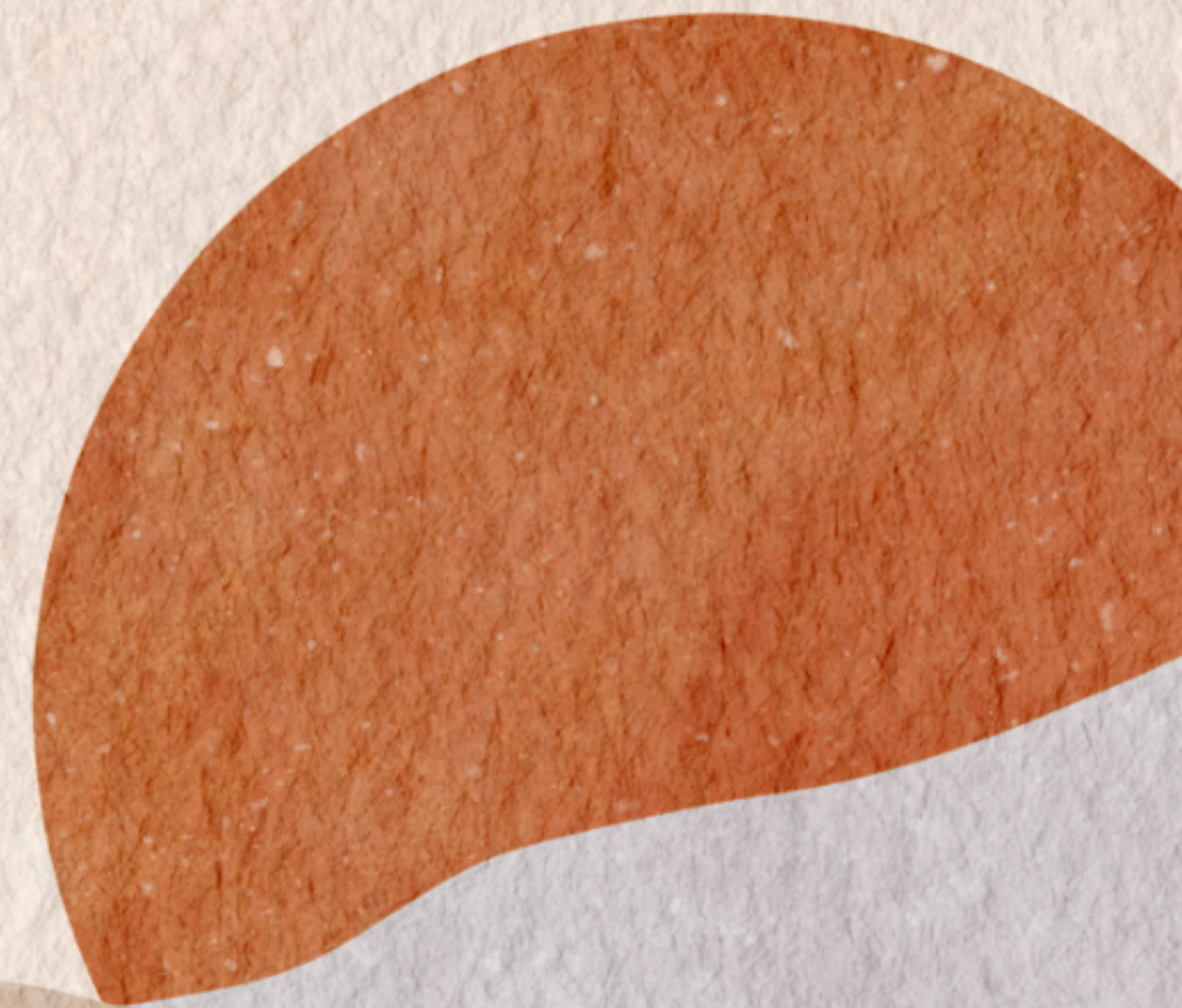
The Sin of Partiality

James 2:1-13



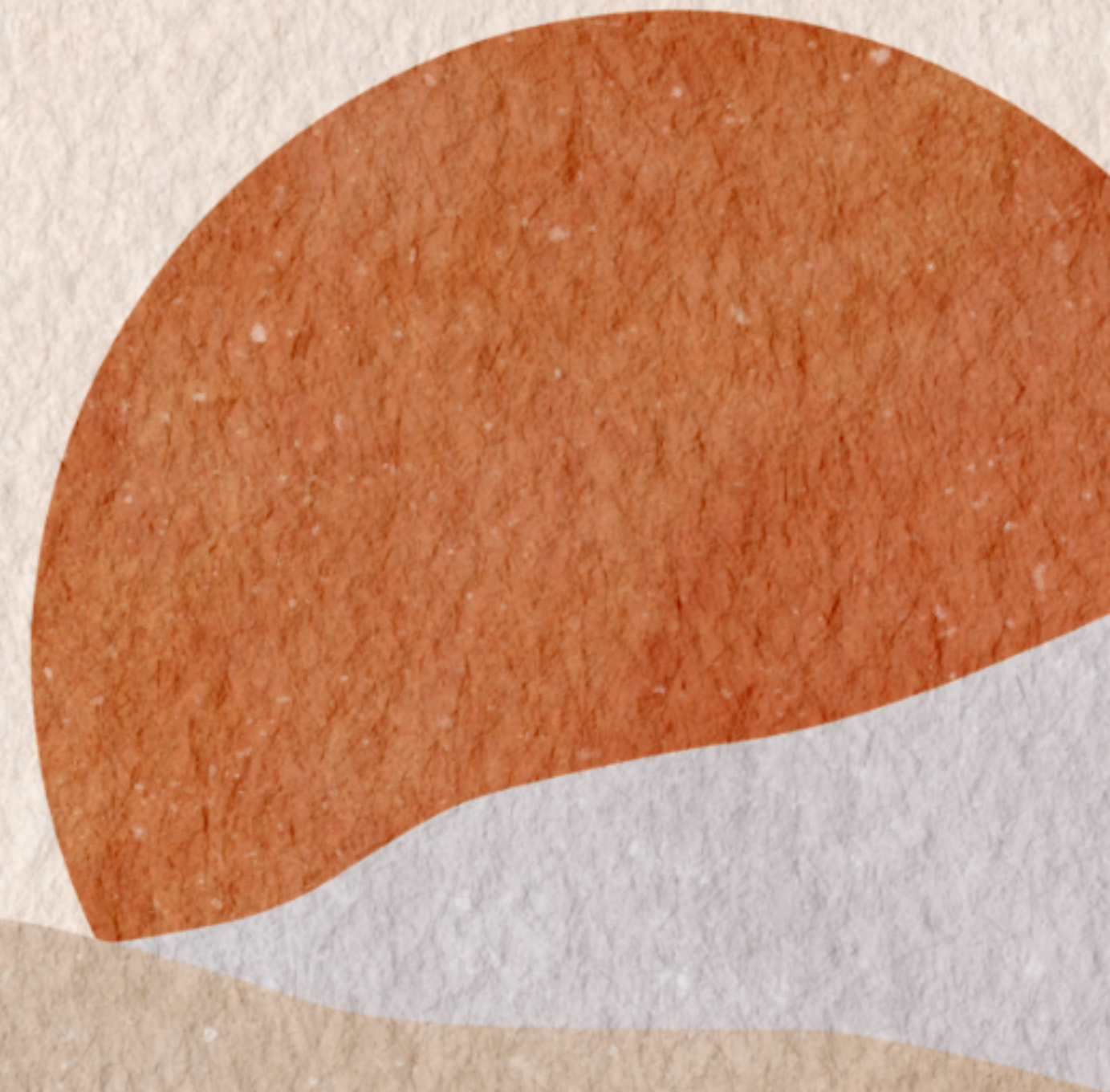
My brothers, show no partiality
as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

— vs 1



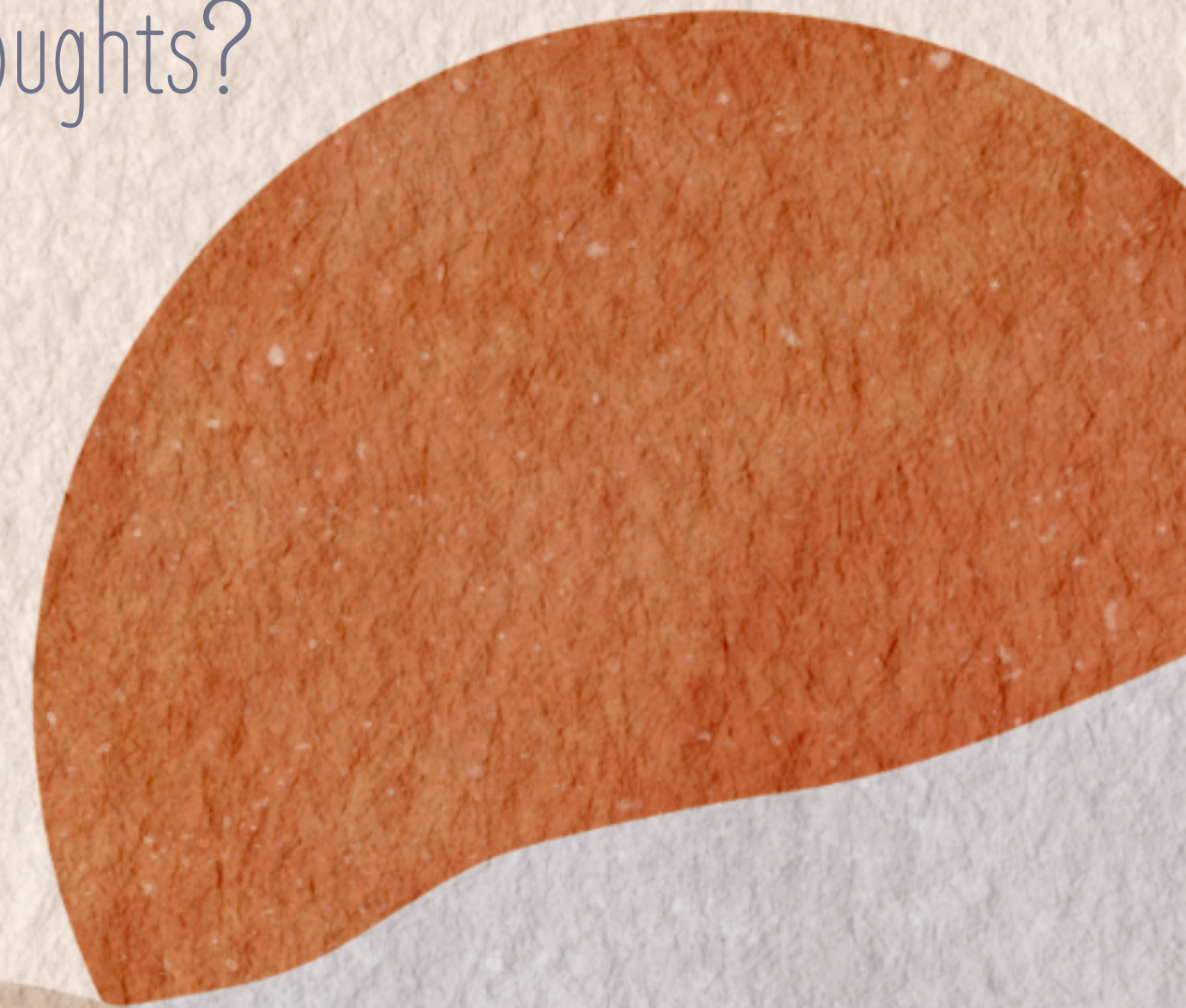
But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

— *1 Samuel 16:7*



For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

— *vv* 2-4



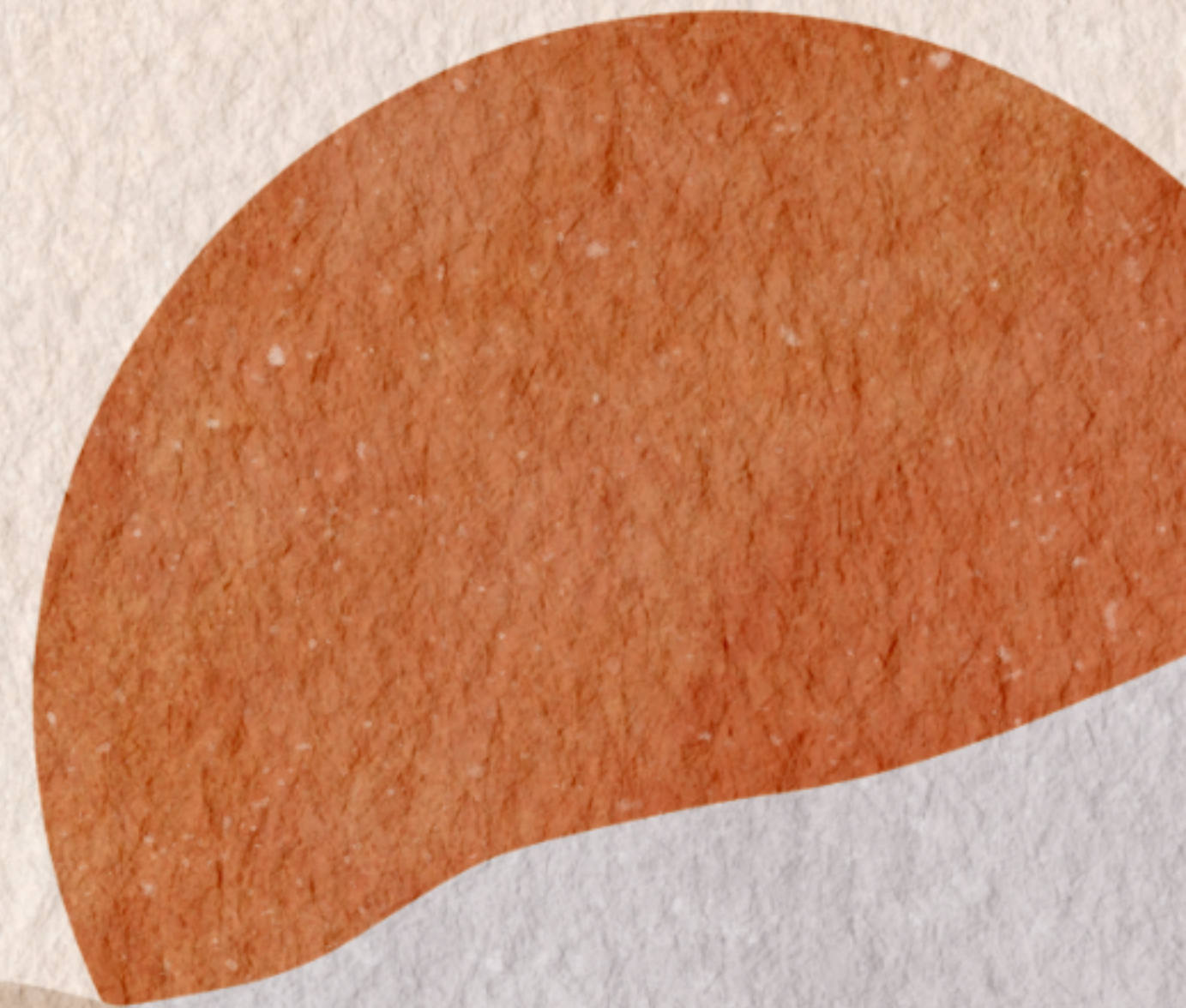
Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. *Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?*

— *vv* 5-7



“I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness,
and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness.”

— *Ecclesiastes 3:16*



Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. *Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?*

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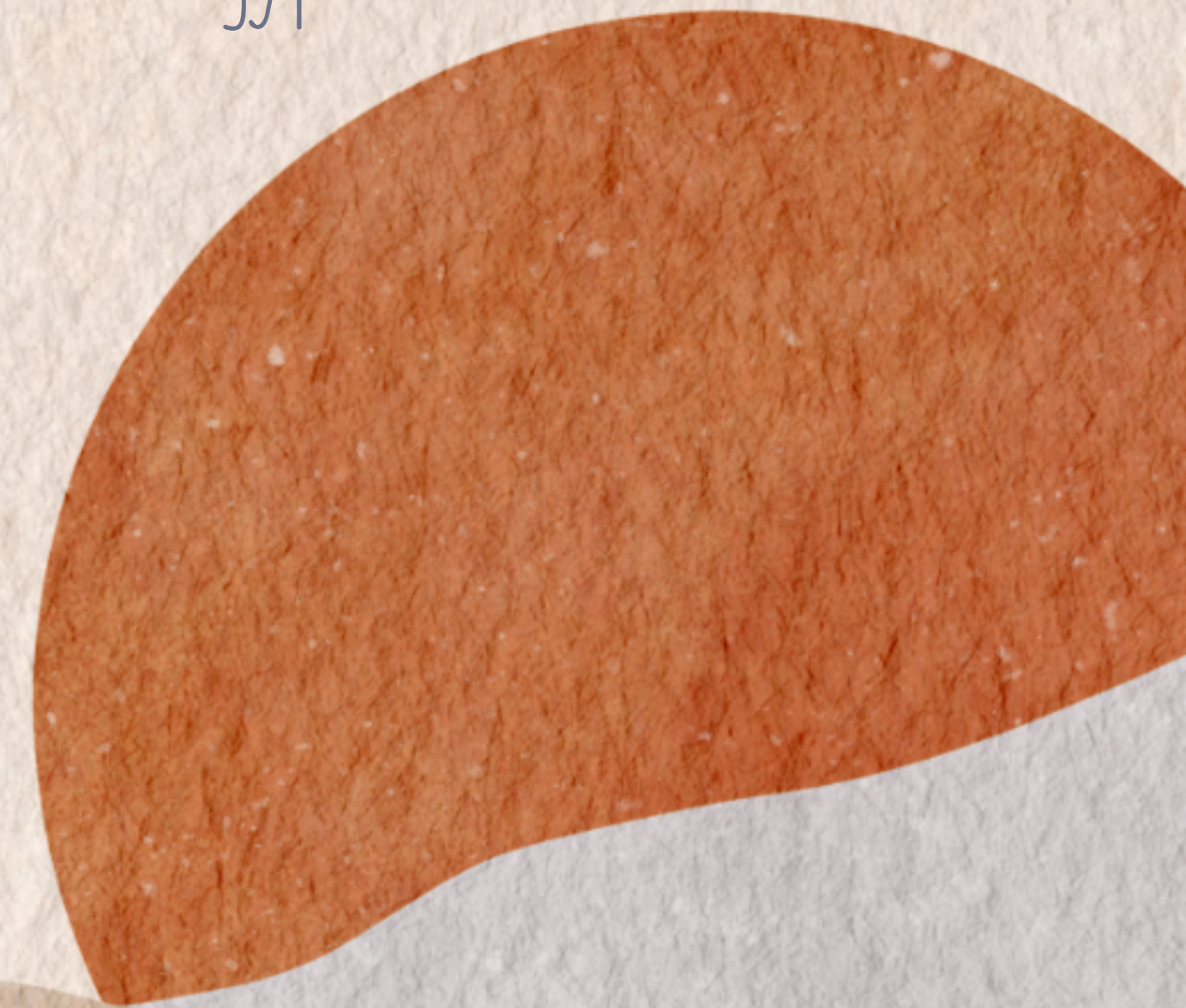
And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

— **Deuteronomy 26:6-9**



For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

— *Deuteronomy* 10:17-19



For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

— *1 Corinthians 1:26-29*



Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. *Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?*

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If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

— *vv* 8-11



“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

— **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**

“You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

— **Leviticus 19:18**



If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

— *vv* 8-11



“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

— *Matthew 5:17-20*



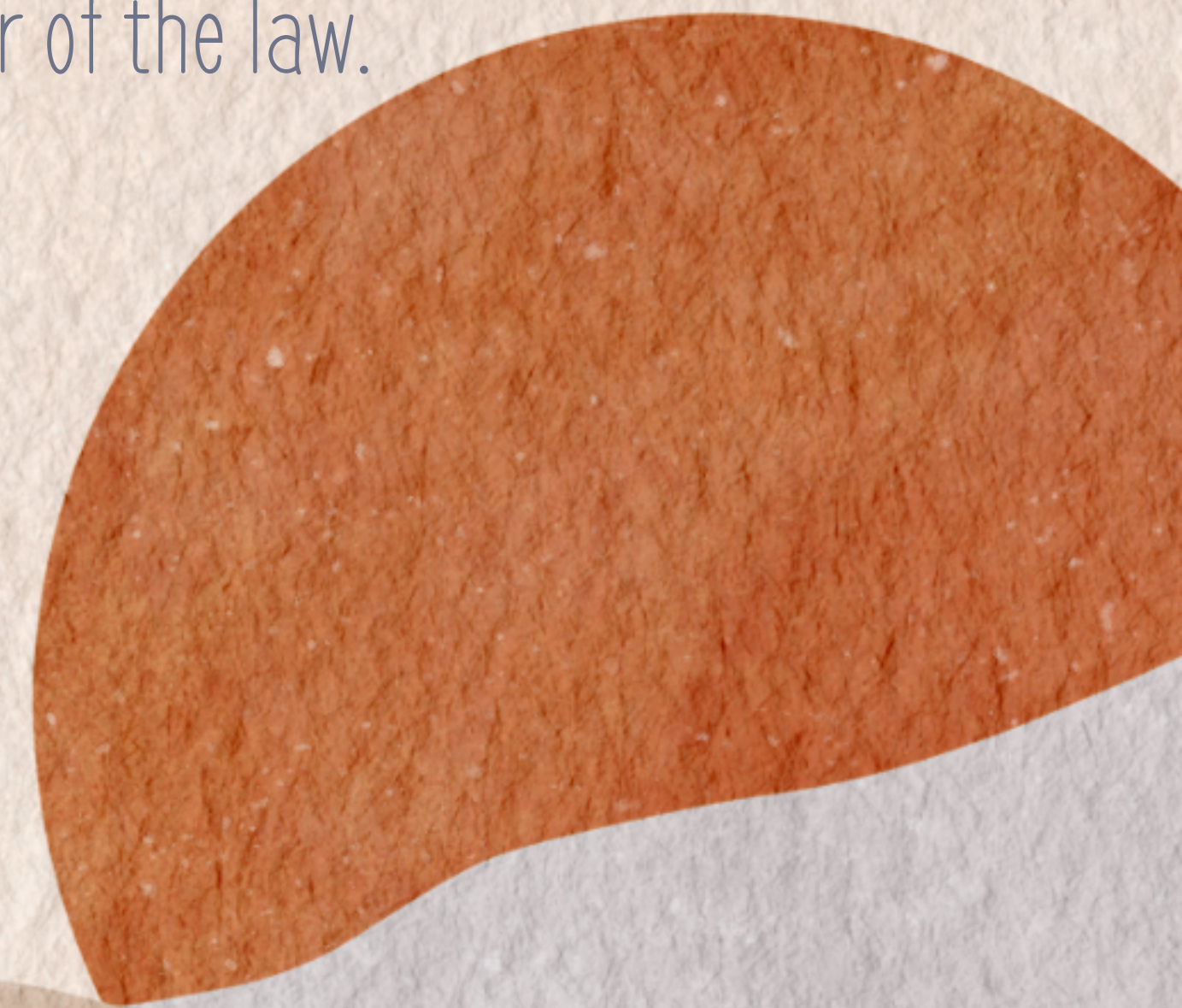
For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written,
“Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”

— *Galatians 3:10*



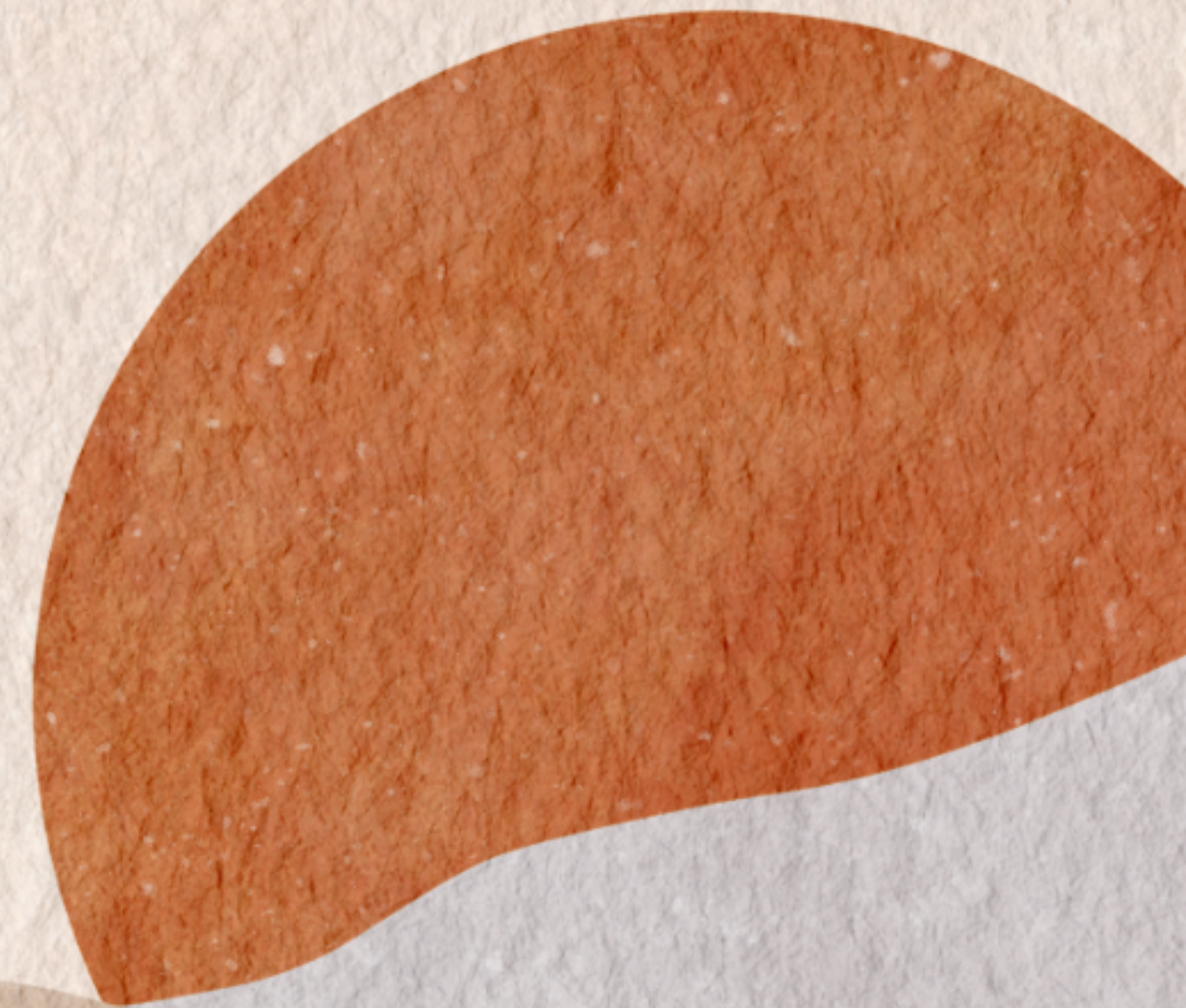
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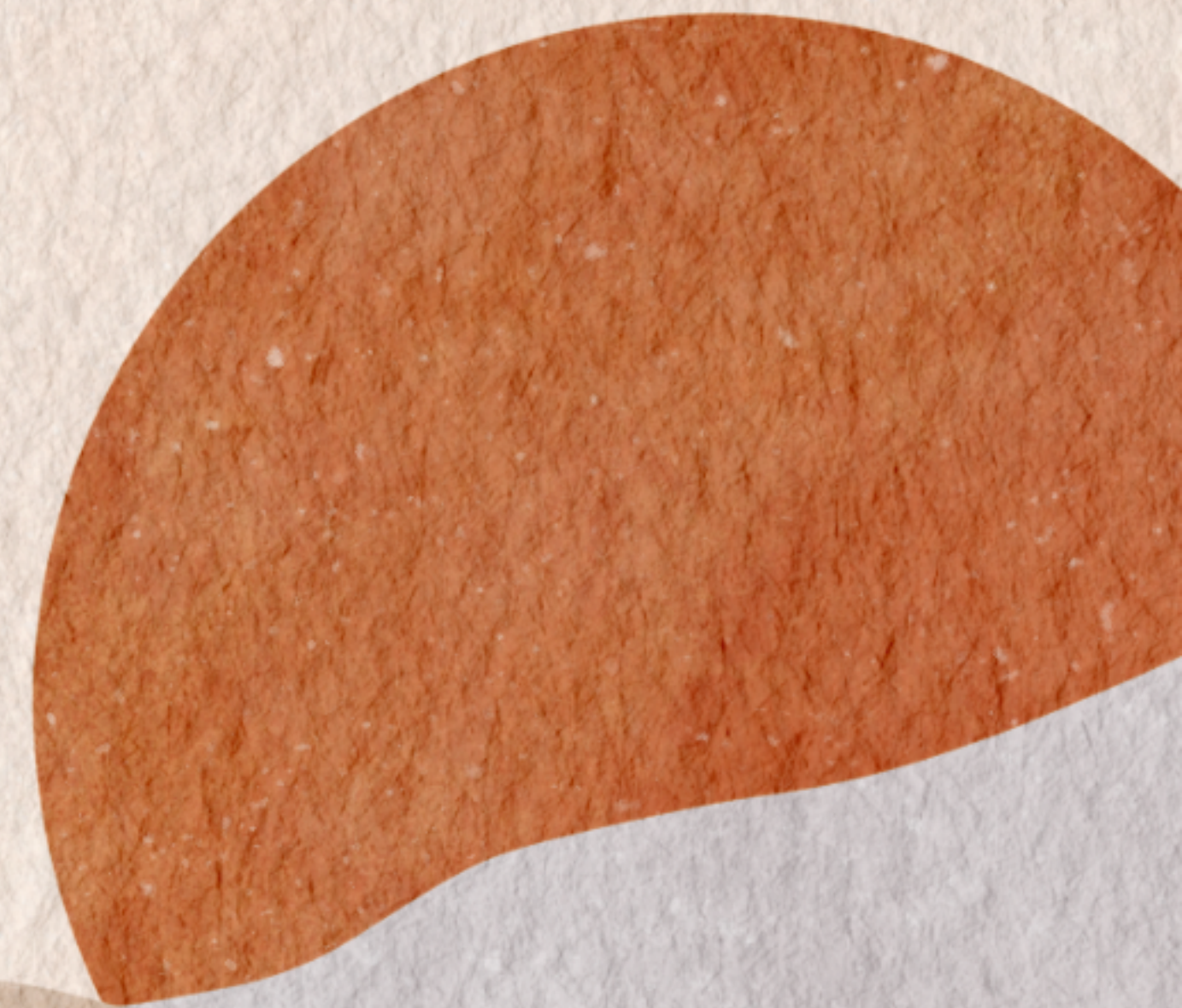
So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.
For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

— *vv* 12-13



My brothers, show no partiality
as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

— vs 1



“When the cross of Christ becomes the benchmark, the world’s glory looks very unimpressive indeed. If it is the glory of Jesus — or rather, the Jesus ‘of the glory’ — that we most long for, we will not be impressed or captivated by the riches and glories of the world around us. As James has already shown us, such things are as fleeting and momentary as the beauty of wild flowers in the desert. Instead, it will be the mercy that God has poured over us through the lowliness of Christ that will most attract our hearts. It is only once this has happened that we will be those characterized by mercy towards the lowly rather than favoritism towards the rich. When we find ourselves tending towards the latter and neglecting the former, the solution is not more effort or gritting our teeth and getting on with it. What changes us is looking again at the glory of Jesus.”

— Sam Allberry



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