

A close-up photograph of a bouquet of tulips. The bouquet features several white tulips and one prominent purple tulip. The flowers are set against a soft, out-of-focus background. A white, rectangular tag is attached to the bouquet with a small brown string. The tag has the words "Happy Mother's Day" written in a black, handwritten-style font.

Happy
Mother's
Day

The background features a vertical gradient from light purple at the top to light blue at the bottom. Scattered throughout are several realistic water droplets of various sizes, some with highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

LIFE BEYOND: LYDIA'S CALL

ACTS 16:9-18



Acts 16:

9 A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

10 When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. 11 So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis;



Acts 16:

12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a *Roman* colony; and we were staying in this city for some days.13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the



Acts 16:

Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.¹⁵ And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

16 ¶ It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by



Acts 16:

fortune-telling.¹⁷ Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation."¹⁸ She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment.

WHEN YOU ARE LOST...

- LOOKING FOR A PLACE...
- BARNABAS AND JOHN MARK/PAUL AND SILAS
- HEATED DEBATE AND THEY PART...
- PAUL LOOKS FOR THE PLACE, SPIRIT GUIDES...
- “COME OVER TO....HELP US.”

DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE

- PHILIPPI – ROMANS COLONY
 - NO SYNAGOGUE
 - PLACE OF PRAYER – RIVER
- FINDS WOMEN IN A GATHERING
 - TOOK THE INITIATIVE

HAVE YOU MET LYDIA?

- SELLER OF PURPLE FABRIC – ROYAL!
- THYATIRA
- WORSHIPPER OF GOD
- HEARD
- LORD OPENED HEART

RESPONSE?

- BAPTIZED! SAME DAY!!!
- INFLUENCES HOUSEHOLD – BAPTIZED!
- “JUDGED ME FAITHFUL”? 1 MEETING?
- STAY AT MY HOUSE – HOSPITALITY...
- ...AND MORE...

MAKING IT POSSIBLE

- ONE REACHING TO ANOTHER...
- PAUL HAS A PLACE TO STAY AND MINISTER
- SMALL THINGS MAKE OPPORTUNITIES
- WE ARE “AROUND” TO MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

RELEASE!

- ANOTHER SABBATH DAY... TO THE RIVER
- PNEUMA PUTHON – APOLLO, DELPHI
- ENSLAVED, PROFITING FROM ‘PROPHET’
- SERVANTS OF THE MOST HIGH GOD
- WAY OF SALVATION? AND WE ARE SILENT?

