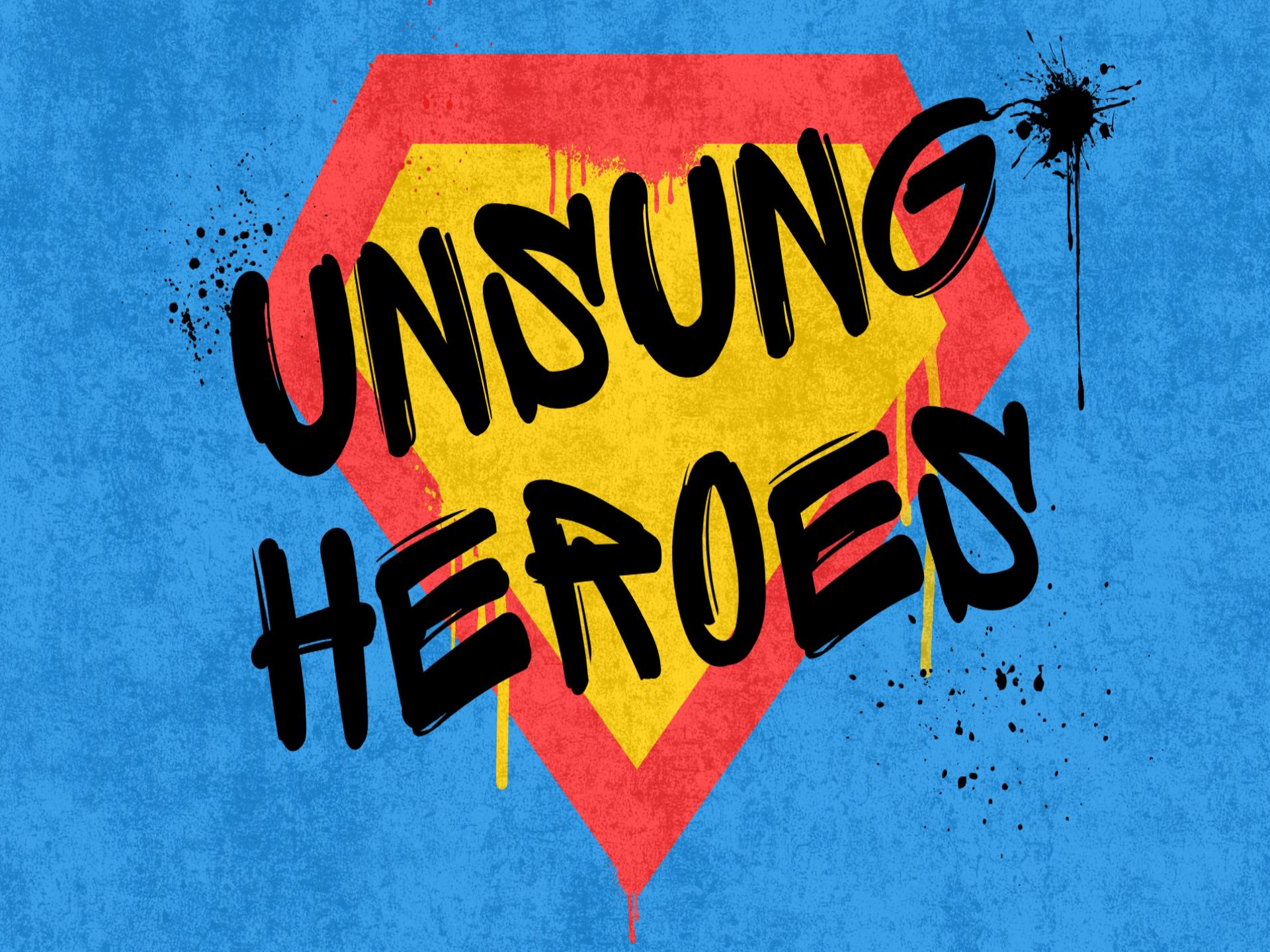

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Lydia of Thyatira …and Philippi.

Acts 16 v11-15, 40

Acts 16: 11-15, 40

11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight
for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to
Neapolis. **12** From there we travelled to Philippi, a
Roman colony and the leading city of that district[of
Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to
the river, where we expected to find a place of
prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the
women who had gathered there.

Acts 16: 11-15, 40

14 One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshipper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. **15** When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.



- God specifically engineered the circumstances for Paul to meet Lydia
- The group of women were significant.



Jewish daily prayer (liturgy):

'I thank you God that you did not make me a Gentile, a slave nor a woman'.

Mission is joining in with what God is doing – the move of the Spirit – throughout all history God uses women and men together to achieve His purposes. And it often counter-cultural, confounding and confusing ruling authorities.

Lydia is:

- a **businesswoman/merchant.**
- **from Thyatira**, but is living & working in Philippi.
- must have crossed the Aegean Sea back and forth in the course of her business.
- Her conversion is immediately followed by **hospitality and practical action**
- Her household is baptised.



- When Paul and Silas leave prison, they **go back to Lydia's house**, where they meet the believers and encourage them (Acts 16:40)
- That makes her house an identifiable centre of the new Christian community.





Lydia has two worlds: THYATIRA as an importer of purple cloth AND she had a commercial/social network in PHILIPPI



In v40, Lydia's house – not just the bricks and mortar – her HOUSEHOLD, was at the centre of a new Christian community.



- God specifically engineered the circumstances for Paul to meet Lydia
- The group of women were significant.
- Was the church in Thyatira planted by Lydia??



"In Lydia we see a woman whose skill and interest is not confined to one limited area….both her position in commerce and her knowledge of faith made her uniquely qualified to spearhead the church in Greece".

(Theology of Work)

Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.



3 couplets; 3 areas of inequality in Paul's time

Paul's Triad of Verses

Galatians 3:28
1 Corinthians 12:13
Colossians 3:11

You are all one in Christ Jesus (v28b) - this is the basic principle. It tears down dividing walls.



Romans 16: 1-7

I commend to you our sister **Phoebe**, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. **2** I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me. **3** Greet **Priscilla** and **Aquila**, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. **4** They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.

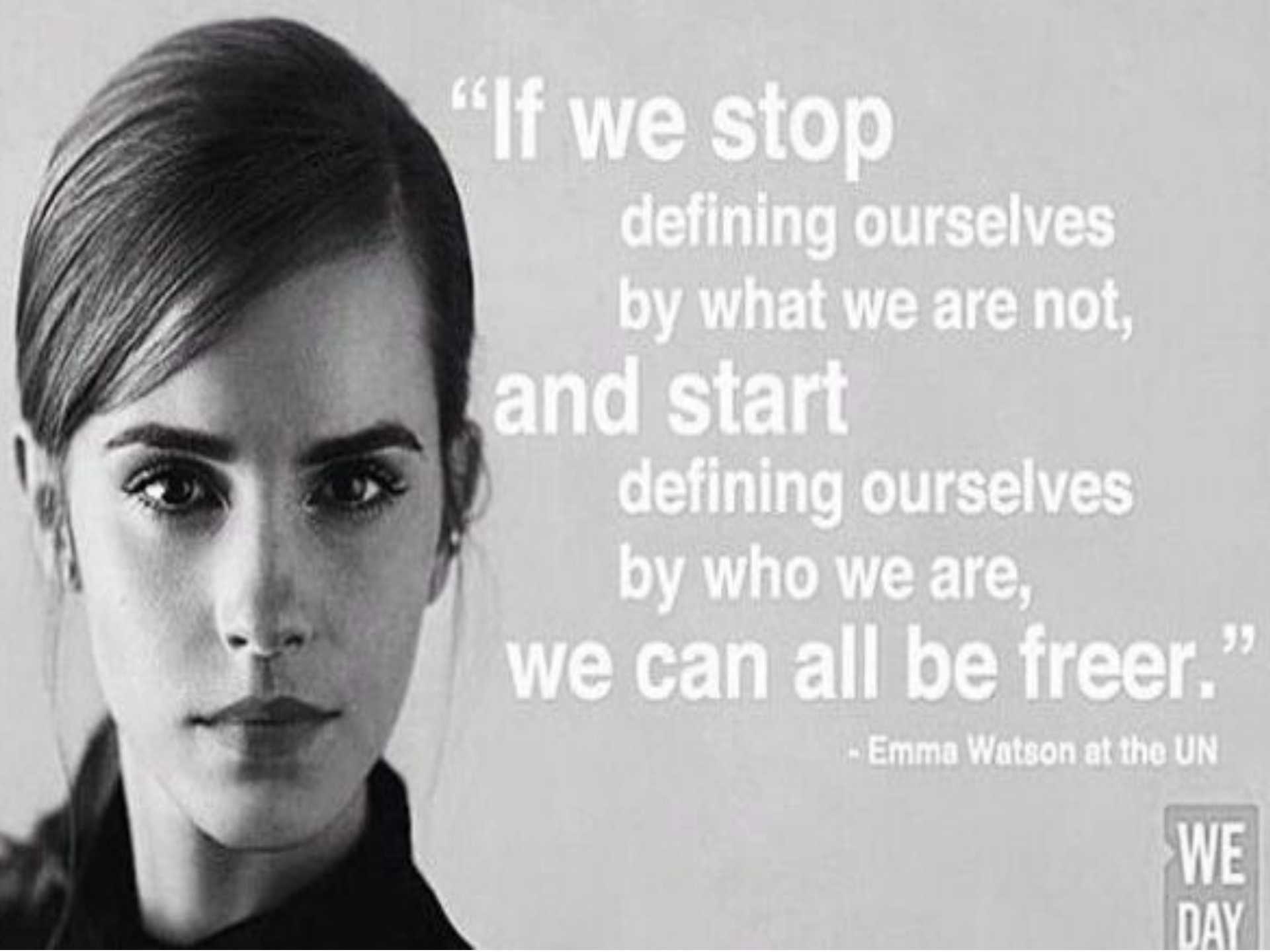
5 Greet also the church that meets at their house. Greet my dear friend **Epenetus**, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia.

6 Greet **Mary**, who worked very hard for you.

7 Greet **Andronicus** and **Junia**, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

When we come to faith in Christ we are set free and if the Son sets you free, you are free indeed. **You are free to minister according to the gifts and the grace given to you.**




“If we stop
defining ourselves
by what we are not,
and start
defining ourselves
by who we are,
we can all be freer.”
- Emma Watson at the UN
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