

# Acts.



# The Wonder of the Gospel

- + ITS BEAUTY
- + ITS POWER
- + ITS KINDNESS
- + ITS SUMMONS



**THRACE**

*Dyrrhachium*

**MACEDONIA**

*Philippi*

*Thessalonica*

**EPIRUS**

**A**

*Smyrna*

*Sa*

*Corinth*

*Athens*

*Ephesus*

**ACHAIA**

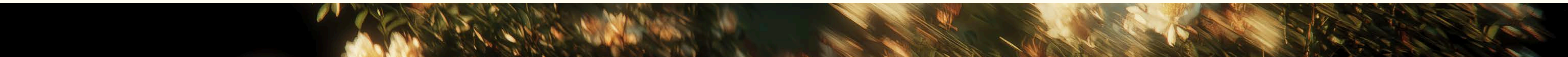
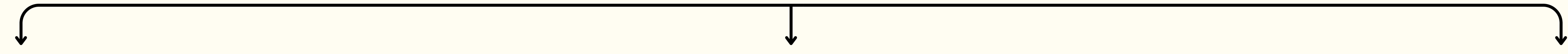
*Miletus*

*Rhodes*

**RHODES**

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**Lydia**  
ACTS 16:13-15

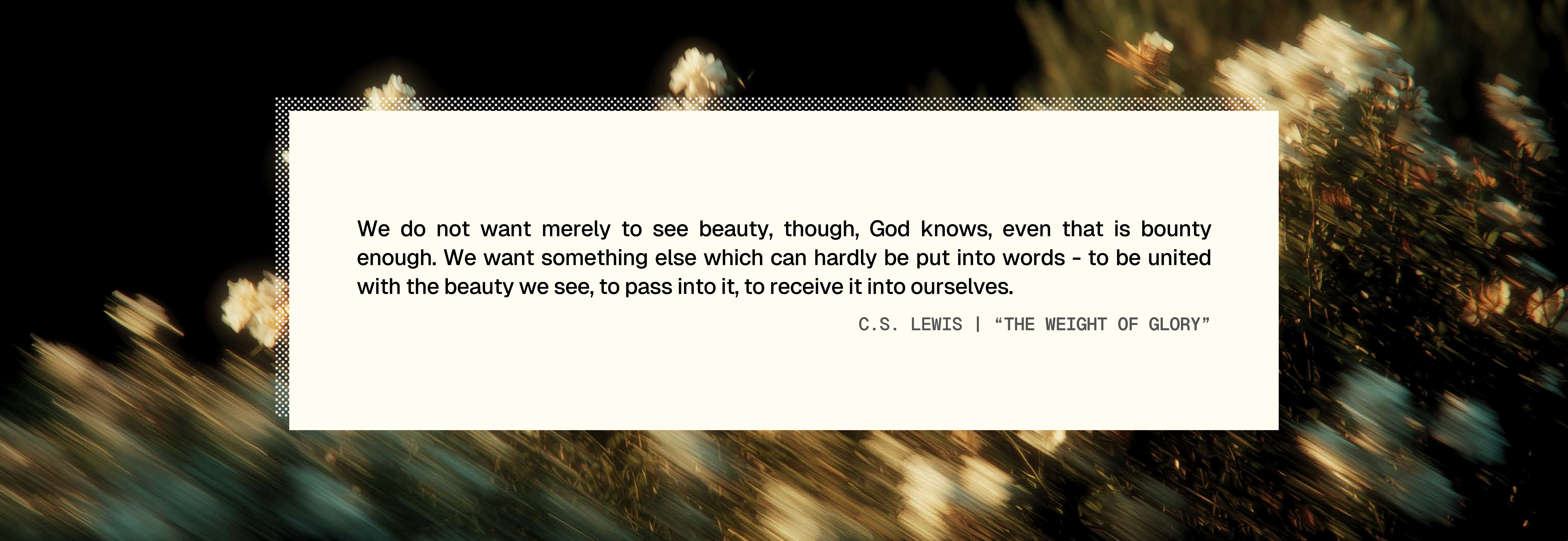




One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord **opened her heart to respond** to Paul's message.

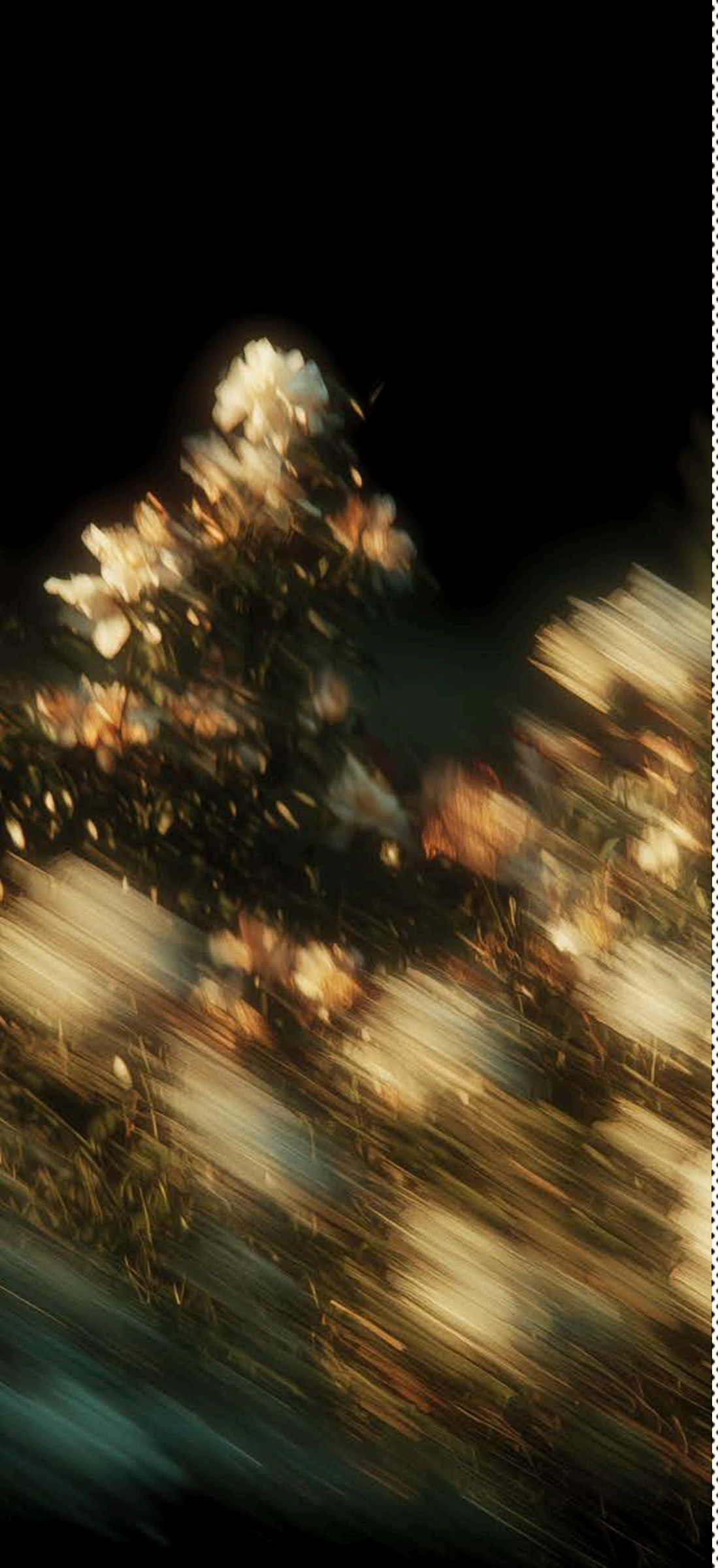
ACTS 16:14 NIV



The background is a photograph of a garden path, likely made of mulch or small stones, lined with yellow flowers. The image is slightly blurred, giving it a sense of depth and movement. A white rectangular text box with a black dotted border is centered on the image. The text inside the box is in a clean, black, sans-serif font.

We do not want merely to see beauty, though, God knows, even that is bounty enough. We want something else which can hardly be put into words - to be united with the beauty we see, to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves.

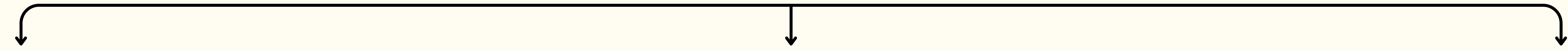
C.S. LEWIS | "THE WEIGHT OF GLORY"



# The Wonder of the Gospel

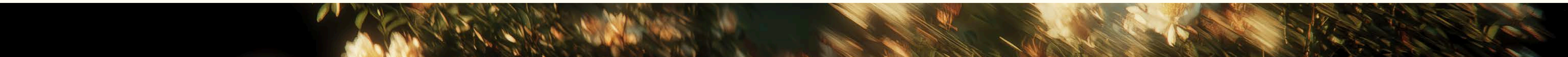
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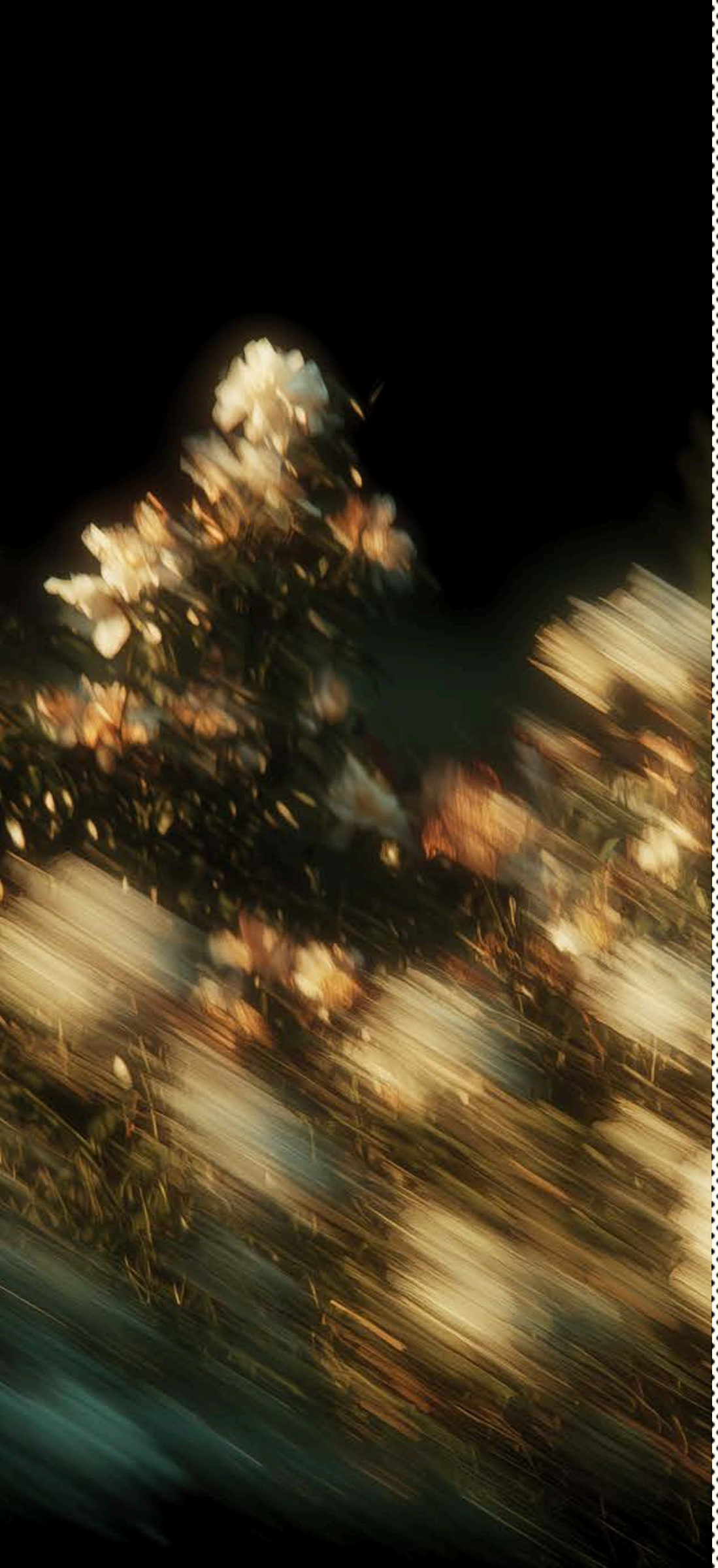
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**Lydia**  
ACTS 16:13-15

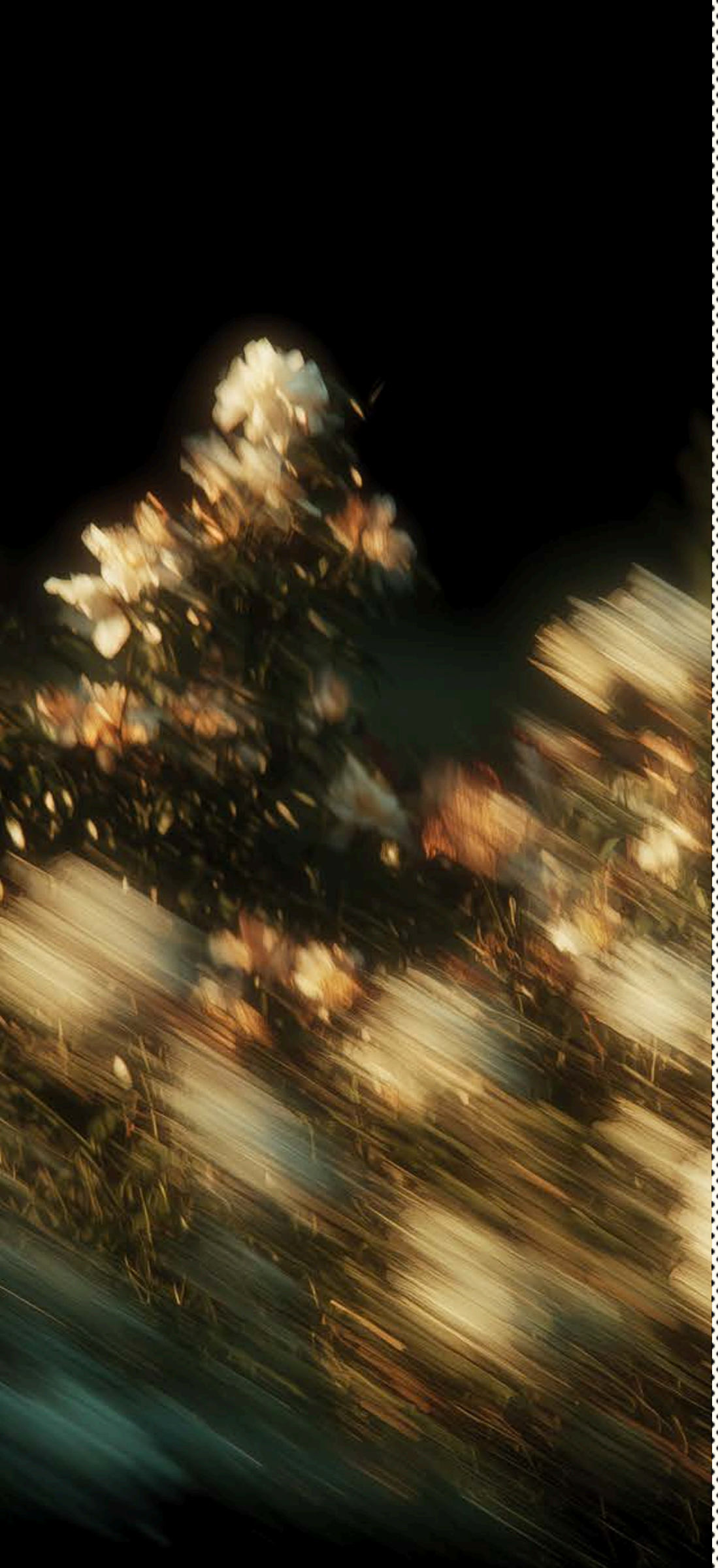
**Slave girl**  
ACTS 16:16-18





She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit **left** her.

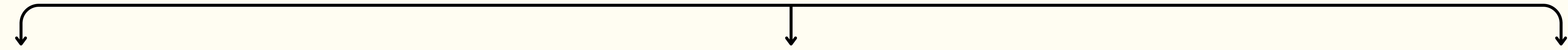
ACTS 16:18 NIV



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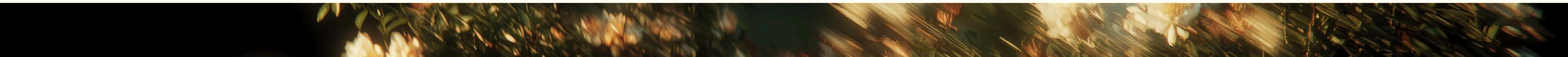
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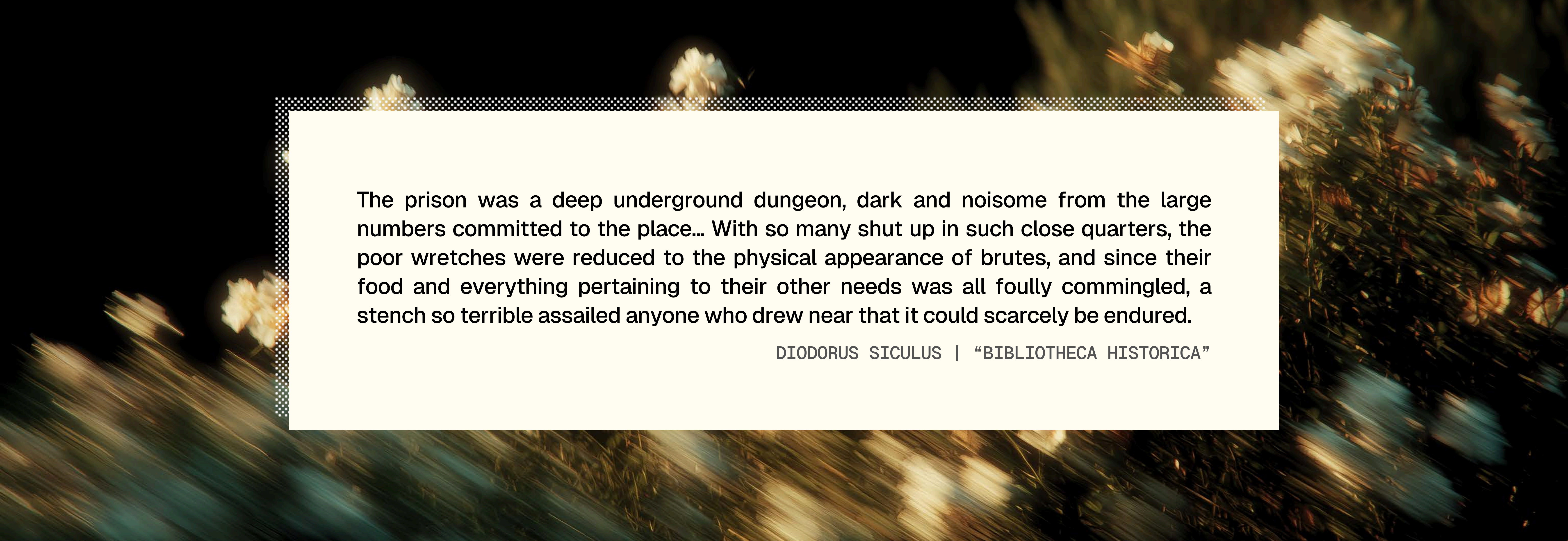


**Lydia**  
ACTS 16:13-15

**Jailer**  
ACTS 16:19-34

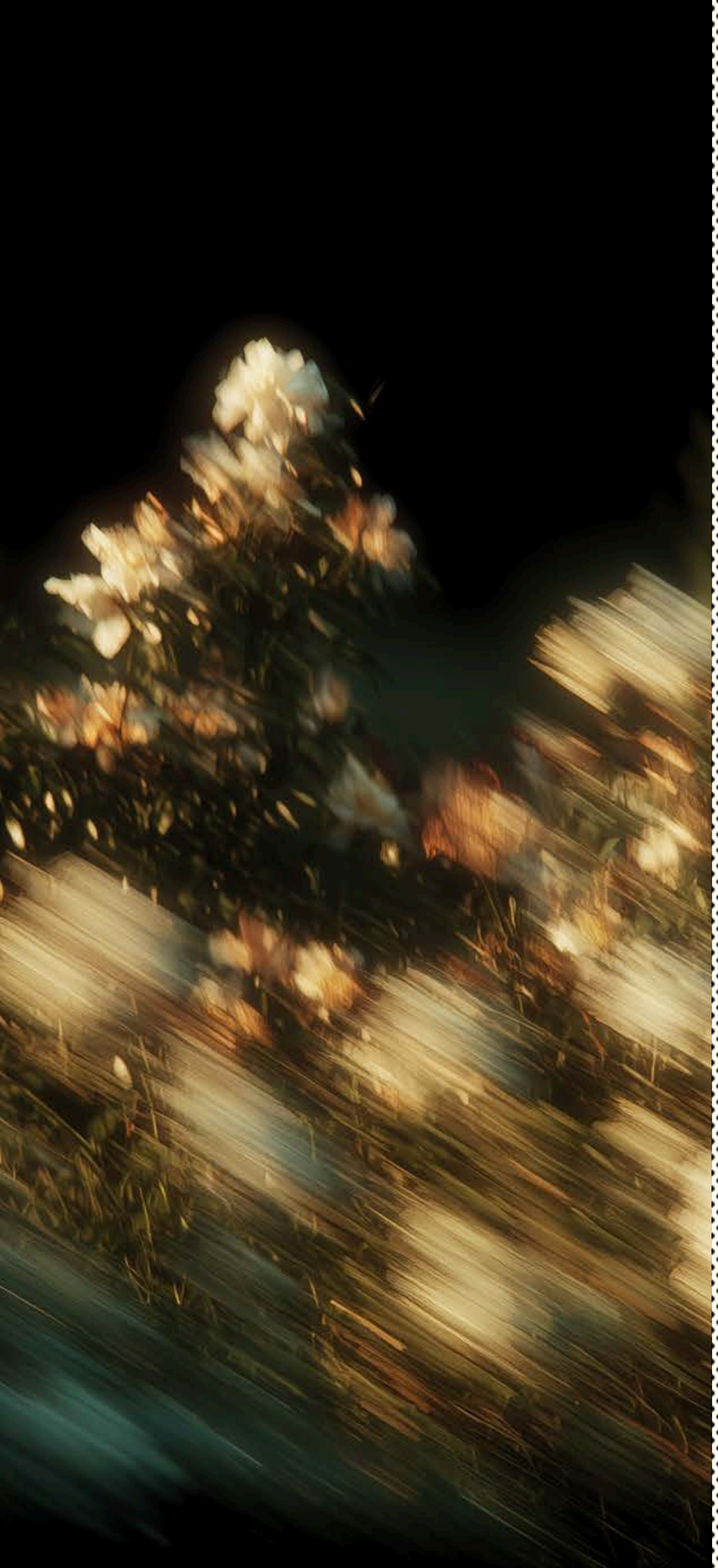
**Slave girl**  
ACTS 16:16-18



The background of the image is a blurred photograph of a field with yellow and white flowers. A white rectangular text box with a black dotted border is centered on the image. The text inside the box is in a black, sans-serif font.

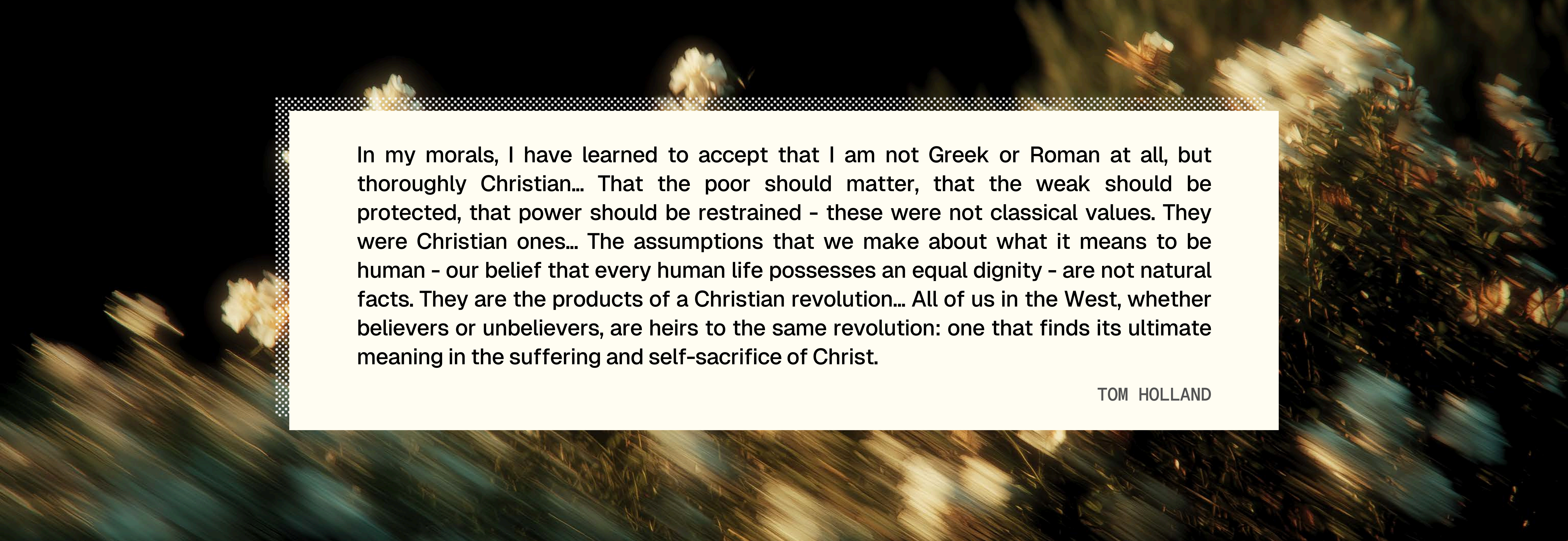
The prison was a deep underground dungeon, dark and noisome from the large numbers committed to the place... With so many shut up in such close quarters, the poor wretches were reduced to the physical appearance of brutes, and since their food and everything pertaining to their other needs was all foully commingled, a stench so terrible assailed anyone who drew near that it could scarcely be endured.

DIODORUS SICULUS | "BIBLIOTHECA HISTORICA"



The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” <sup>31</sup> They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

ACTS 16:29-31 NIV



In my morals, I have learned to accept that I am not Greek or Roman at all, but thoroughly Christian... That the poor should matter, that the weak should be protected, that power should be restrained - these were not classical values. They were Christian ones... The assumptions that we make about what it means to be human - our belief that every human life possesses an equal dignity - are not natural facts. They are the products of a Christian revolution... All of us in the West, whether believers or unbelievers, are heirs to the same revolution: one that finds its ultimate meaning in the suffering and self-sacrifice of Christ.

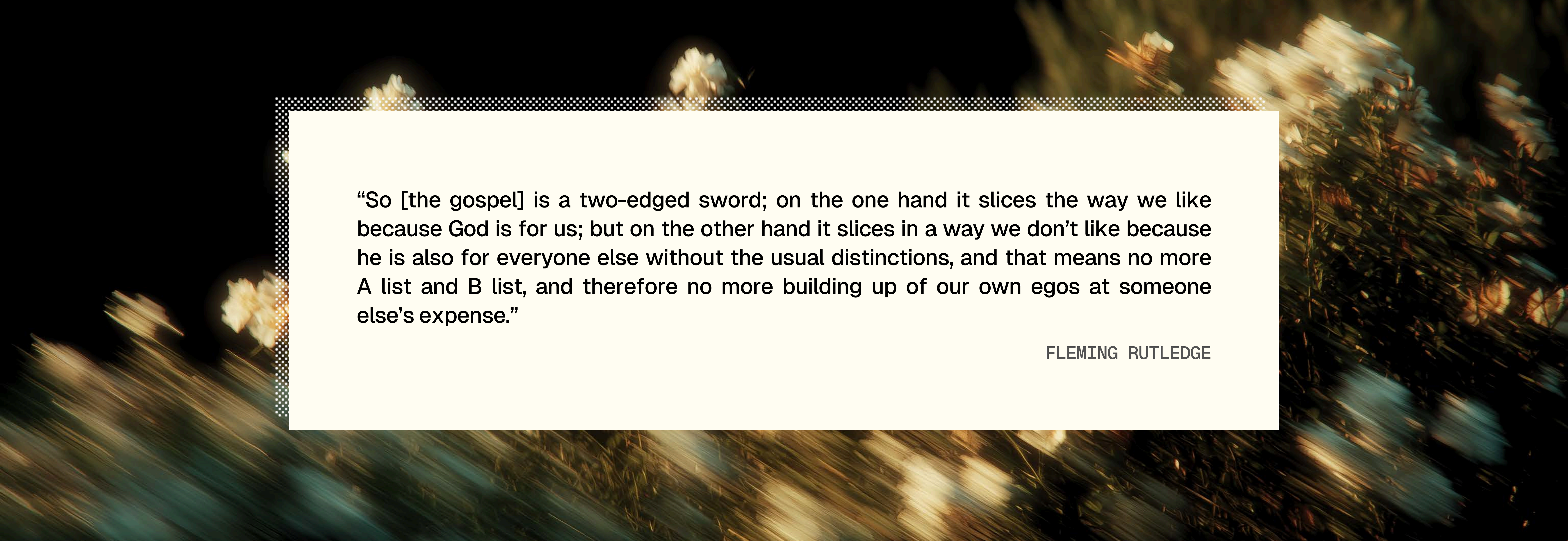
TOM HOLLAND



# The Wonder of the Gospel

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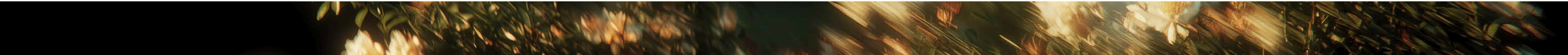
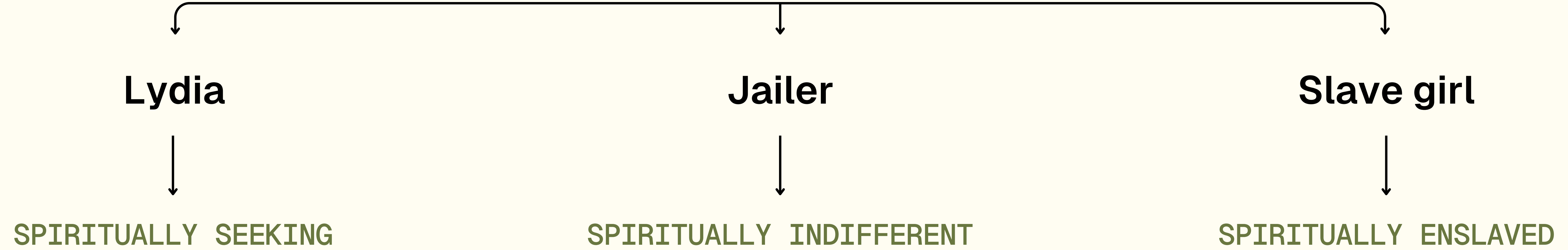


The background of the image is a photograph of a garden path. The path is made of light-colored stones or gravel, and it is lined with yellow flowers, possibly daisies, on both sides. The lighting is warm, suggesting a sunset or sunrise, with long shadows and a golden glow. The path leads into the distance, creating a sense of depth. A white dotted border is overlaid on the left and top edges of the image, framing the central text.

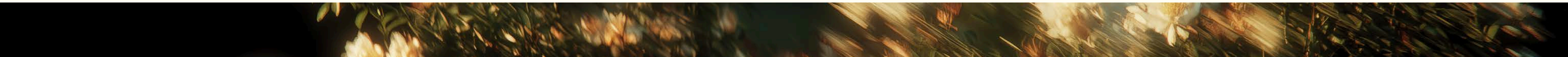
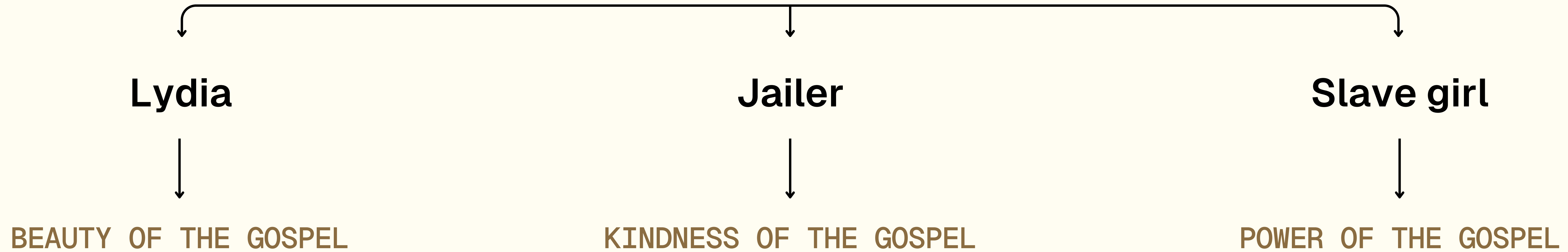
“So [the gospel] is a two-edged sword; on the one hand it slices the way we like because God is for us; but on the other hand it slices in a way we don’t like because he is also for everyone else without the usual distinctions, and that means no more A list and B list, and therefore no more building up of our own egos at someone else’s expense.”

FLEMING RUTLEDGE

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They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.”

ACTS 16:31 NIV



# Confession

LEADER:

Heavenly Father,

ALL:

**Have mercy on us.**

**We have not loved You as You deserve;**

**We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves;**

**We have not obeyed You as we should.**

**Lord, forgive us our sin.**

**We are in need of a Savior.**

Matthew 6:9

Luke 18:13

Mark 12:30

Mark 12:31

John 14:15

Matthew 6:12

Romans 3:23



# Assurance of Pardon

LEADER:

Church, believe the good news!

ALL:

**Jesus died for us;**

**Jesus rose for us;**

**Jesus intercedes for us;**

**In Him we are a new creation;**

**In Him we have forgiveness of sin;**

**In Him we have a Savior.**

**To God be the glory forever and ever! Amen.**

Mark 1:15

Romans 5:6

1 Corinthians 15:20

Hebrews 7:25

2 Corinthians 5:17

Ephesians 1:7

1 John 4:14

Galatians 1:5