

**ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS**  
**"All I Want For Christmas Is...MEANING" - Pt 3 of 5**  
**December 10, 2017**

**Luke 1:26-55**

"God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph... The virgin's name was Mary."

(vs. 26-27 NIV)

Mary's initial reaction:

"Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 'Don't be frightened, Mary,' the angel told her, 'for God has decided to wonderfully bless you!'" (vs. 29-30 LB)

Possible fears:

- \* Fear of criticism - "What will everyone think?"
- \* Fear of the supernatural - "What will happen to me?"
- \* Fear of inadequacy - "How can I handle this?"
- \* Fear of change - "How will this change my life?"

**THE TYPE OF PERSON GOD USES**

**1. GOD USES PEOPLE WHO DESIRE TO DO HIS WILL**

"Then Mary responded 'My soul praises the Lord, my heart rejoices in God my Savior, because he has shown his concern for his humble servant girl."

**Luke 1:46-48 (NCV)**

"I desire to do your will, O my God..." **Psalm 40:8 (NIV)**

"Our only goal is to please God..." **2 Corinthians 5:9 (NCV)**

"Mary quietly treasured these things in her heart and often thought about them." **Luke 2:19 (LB)**

**What do I desire to do most?**

**2. GOD USES PEOPLE WHO DECIDE TO PAY THE COST**

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God's Plan: vs. 31-33

Mary's Response:

"Mary said, 'I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to do whatever he wants. May everything you said come true.'" **Luke 1:38 (LB)**

(Jesus) "No one can be my disciple who does not carry his own cross and follow me. But don't begin until you count the cost." **Luke 14:27-28 (LB)**

"But all these things that I once thought very worthwhile -- now I've thrown them all away so that I can put my trust and hope in Christ alone."

**Philippians 3:7 (LB)**

**What am I willing to give up?**

**3. GOD USES PEOPLE WHO DARE TO TRUST HIS PROMISES**

"Mary asked the angel, "But how can I have a baby? I am a virgin. The angel replied, 'The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of God shall overshadow you... For every promise from God shall surely come true.'" **Luke 1:34-35, 37 (LB)**

(Jesus) "What is impossible with men is possible with God." **Luke 18:27 (NIV)**

(Elizabeth to Mary) "You believed that God would do what he said: THAT IS WHY he has given you this wonderful blessing." **Luke 1:45 (LB)**

**How much do I trust God?**