

Sermon Date: December 13, 2015

Pastor: Dan Wilvers

# Sierra's Weekly Message Action Plan



## Sierra's Weekly Action Plan:

Use the Message Action Plan below to help put the things you learned this weekend into practice. If you missed last weekend's message, [Click Here](#) to listen to it online.

*"The First Christian"*

*Christmas Lights Part 2*

Dan Wilvers

December 13th 2015

Will you let Mary's model of surrender to God's purposes in her life direct you to say I'm going to follow you LORD even though I don't quite know where I'm going." Are you willing to say that?

*Luke 1:26-38*<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,<sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.<sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.<sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God."<sup>31</sup> You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.<sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,<sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be

born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For nothing is impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her

**Dorothy Sayers** is the author of the fictional *Lord Whimsey Series*. She wrote a non fictional book entitled the “**Mind of the Maker**”

She puts it like this. She says, *“[The incarnation means] that for whatever reason God chose to make man as he is—limited and suffering and subject to sorrows and death—he had the honesty and the courage to take his own medicine. He can exact nothing from man that he has not exacted from himself. He has himself gone through the whole of human experience, from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair, and death. [...] He was born in poverty and died in disgrace ...”* He suffered infinite pain all for us. “He ... thought it well worthwhile.”

That’s the message Mary heard and received

There are two things she shows that we need to look at ourselves and see whether we have responded this way too.

### **1. Healthy hesitancy**

“Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.” vs. 29

Healthy hesitancy is something that’s very good and that’s what Mary shows by asking how this amazing prediction could happen to a virgin.

Unlike her predecessor Zechariah in the first half of Luke Chapter 1, Mary wasn’t doubting, she was questioning. Zechariah was struck mute by the Angel for doubting that he and his wife could have a son (John the Baptist)

### **2. Cautious surrender**

She knows what she is getting into. She says, *“Behold, I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be done to me according to thy will.”*

Mary though cautious, weighs the request, and she surrenders and says, **“Let it be to me according to your will.”**

**Worldly Wisdom rejects the Incarnation**

**But there are three things the human race needs desperately, and the worldly wisdom can't give it at all.**

**First *you need to be able to face death with assurance and confidence.***

**Secondly, *you have to be able to live with your own past.* You have to be able to get absolute peace of conscience. no matter what you've done.**

**Thirdly, *you have to be able to forgive people.***

**Mary chooses, the wisdom from above and it drives her to take her hands off of her life, her way of seeing and doing things.**

**I'm going to take whatever I'm told to do.**

***Anybody who wants to become a Christian has to basically say the same thing.***

**This story tells us if Mary could take the heat and obey, we have no excuse to live life outside of God's will.**

**Let us not fall lower in the test than this little 15-year-old girl, an unwed teenage mother, in Palestine centuries ago.**

**Let's say to him, "Behold, I'm your servant. Let it be to me according to your will." I will follow you.**