The Balanced Preparation - Matthew 10:16

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Media Reference Number GSX823 – *Sunday, March 8th, 2026*

Introduction

As you read through the gospels it becomes evident that Jesus was always seeking to prepare His disciples for what was ahead. He would do this in a variety of ways sometimes intentionally putting them in challenging situations *to deepen their dependency.*

There were other times where He spoke to them <u>simply and clearly</u> what the future was going to hold. However, we know that much of what Jesus told them wouldn't land in the hearts of the disciples until Jesus would ascend and the Holy Spirit would be sent to help connect the dots.

One of the most common ways Jesus would prepare His disciples was to ensure that they wouldn't be surprised when the world that they were called to reach would be *diametrically opposed to them.*

<u>He never wanted them to be caught off guard or surprised when life was challenging.</u>
He wanted them to understand that it was supposed to be that way. But they could still have *peace and joy* because He had overcome everything and everyone in this world and they too could be overcomers in Him.

Overtime, Peter came to understand this experientially and would say this in his first letter…

1 Peter 4:12
12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

Strange: to be emotionally impacted by being surprised

As we study a very famous but underutilized verse today, we will find Jesus giving his disciples **a balanced preparation.** *So that they would not only expect opposition in this world but also know how to conduct themselves in it with balance.*

While they would be sent out as sheep among wolves, they were to **<u>strike the balance</u>** of being wise as serpents **<u>and</u>** harmless as doves.

<u>Much of the Christian life is about finding the balance.</u>
The balance between speaking the truth but also doing it in love. The balance between being confident and yet being dependent. The balance between working hard and resting well. The balance between enjoying our liberty in Christ but also not stumbling our brother.

We are prone to veer hard toward one way or another. It's often hard for us to find the middle ground between the truths that we find in God's word. We are to avoid unhealthy extremes. There can be ditches on both sides. *God had told Joshua to observe to do according to all the law and not turn from the right hand or to the left so that he might prosper wherever he would go.*

*The way we prosper is to live a **well-balanced life** down the path that God has prepared for us.*

Jesus had this balance down to a T. He acted with incredible wisdom and yet perfect purity. He was able to go toe to toe with anyone and yet would stoop down to touch the untouchable.

John 1:14
[14] And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, ***full of grace and truth.***

Jesus was full of both grace and truth. He was gracious and yet strong in the truth. There was a moment where Jesus literally handmade his own whip to use in the temple and other times where He told the disciples to not forbid the little children who wanted to come to Him that He might bless them.

We must not only look at Jesus' words but also His life as an example of how to strike that balance when it comes to living in a world of hostility. Thankfully Jesus taught this memorably and demonstrated this well.

Read Matthew 10:16 & Pray

The Background & Context

Chapter 9 ends with Jesus telling His disciples that while the harvest is plentiful, the laborers are few and they should pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers.

Then in the opening of chapter 10, you find Jesus calling the 12 disciples to Himself making them His apostles, those who would be sent out with His power into His harvest!

He sends them out with the message of the kingdom and with power from heaven. And this wasn't something they were to charge for, *freely they had received and so freely they were to give.*

Jesus assures them of His provision for their mission and gave them instruction on what they should do if someone receives or rejects the message. Rejection was not in any way to slow them down. *He tells them to simply shake the dust off their feet and move on.*

So, after their calling and commissioning, Jesus brings them in close to highlight for them the reality of the situation they are stepping into along with the balance that will be needed to fulfill what He had called them to do. ***This is where verse 16 comes into full effect.***

Directly after verse 16, Jesus's warning increases in intensity as He tells them what the future would hold as they continued to serve Him. That they would be delivered up to both religious and political leaders where they will be physically persecuted on His behalf. *He assures them that in those moments the Holy Spirit would supply to them all that they would need to say.*

Jesus warns them that it will even be family members who will turn on them and they will be hated for His sake. But He gives them the promise that as they endure to the end they will be saved, *not that enduring would keep their salvation but would be the evidence of it.*

The contents recorded in this chapter first and foremost apply directly to the 12 apostles apostles that Jesus was speaking to, but I believe that this would be the same counsel that Jesus would speak to any of His disciples seeking to follow and be used by Him in this world.

While the exact parameters of the situation are different, the principles remain the same. The timeless truths contained in this single verse prove **POWERFUL** to prepare us to live balanced in this hostile world.

The Delegation: Sent Personally *(verse 16a)*

16 "Behold, I send you out

Right in the middle of this commissioning speech, Jesus uses this word *"Behold"* .

Behold: *"idou"* – look with amazement! used to liven up a narrative and to emphasize an idea

Jesus is saying really pay attention here, if you haven't been getting it yet, try this out for size. He stops them simply from listening *and He wants them to truly hear what He is saying.*

Verse 16 seems to be the summary statement of everything He has said and all that He is going to say here in this section. This verse comprises all that Jesus was communicating to them which is why He wants to them to pay extra special attention to this. *For them to lean in and lock in that they might catch every word.*

What does Jesus want them to see? → *That **HE** is the one who is sending them.*
But wouldn't this have been something they already knew? Jesus had just called them His apostles *(that is the sent-out ones)* and He had already been talking about this.

While this was something they knew, He wanted them to really understand all that went with His sending. *This was not just a truth to know but **a truth to experience.***

If they really understood that He was the one who sent them, then they would have no need to fear anything and no need to worry. Because when Jesus sends someone, they are always sent with His presence to go before them.

Deuteronomy 31:8
8 And the Lord, He *is* the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."

What Jesus is about to tell them is terrifying unless they were rooted in the promise of His presence.

Jesus says I – send you out or it is I who am sending you. *He is emphasizing the personal nature of His delegation.*

Send you out: *"apostellō"* – to dispatch, to send away towards a designated goal or purpose

This is to send as a representative or to commission someone on your behalf. The verb implies that as Jesus sends them out He cannot abandon them and that all that they do is really what Jesus is doing through them.

This is what Jesus does, He is a sender. He could do it Himself, He didn't need any of the disciples, but He chose to use them and chose to give them purpose. But they must always come back to the fact that it is *Him through them!*

They needed this reminder because they were being sent into what seemed like an impossibly desperate situation. But if it was in fact Jesus who sent them, *failure was off the table.*

And the same is true with us, He does not need us to accomplish His work and yet He calls us to go for Him, to be sent on His behalf. But the age-old question that Isaiah heard from the throne room is *"Who will go for Us?"*

In John 20 after His resurrection, we find this sending yet again…

John 20:21
[21] So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

This is what Jesus does. He saves someone and then sends them. This is His model. And if you have answered the call to receive His salvation, then answer His call of sending.

What does He send us to do?
Same thing He sent the disciples to do. To tell people about Him and His kingdom and make more disciples. He told them this explicitly in **Matthew 28** and the mission has not changed: GO therefore and make disciples. And in a similar way that chapter ends with the promise of His presence, LO *(same word as behold)* I am with you always, even till the end of the age.

AND if He is the One sending, then as we answer His call, He will be with us every step of the way.

Are you living mission minded? Do you see yourselves as having been sent by Jesus Christ Himself? If you're saved, then you better believe you're sent, so live like it! No more bench sitting, no more sidelines, no more excuses. *He has sent you and has promised to be with you.*

Matthew Henry
They are as *sheep among wolves*, that is frightful; but Christ sends them forth, that is comfortable; for he that sends them forth will protect them, and bear them out. But that they might know the worst, he tells them particularly what they must expect.

The Conditions: Into Hostility *(verse 16b)*

as sheep in the midst of wolves.

Even though Jesus is personally sending them out, this doesn't mean the road will be easy. *While God promises to make our paths straight, He does not promise that He will make them smooth.*

Jesus isn't sending them to into friendly territory, and He makes sure they know this. *He wants them to understand the type of conditions and environment they are being sent into.*

To illustrate this reality for them, **he first gives the picture of two animals: sheep & wolves**
Sheep are the prey and wolves are the predator. Wolves attack sheep. They tear them apart and eat them alive.

In Luke's gospel, we find Jesus's words are recorded in this way:

Luke 10:3
[3] Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves.

This describes the reality of the conditions even better with using the word *"lambs"* which indicate baby sheep who are even more vulnerable than adult sheep.

Jesus is telling them that they are going into an extremely hostile environment where they will be met with serious and sometimes even deadly resistance.

Something like this is very helpful to know ahead of time. Surprises can be great when it comes to receiving a gift but disorienting when it comes to the trials of this life.

This is why any legitimate sports team will study the team they are going up against so that they know the type of conditions they will face in the game. They don't want any surprises that would catch them off guard.

And yet there are many well intentioned believers who become disillusioned and disoriented when the trials and tribulations of this life hit. Some will get hyper-fixated on asking why this is happening to them when Jesus clearly told us things like this would happen ahead of time. *Trials are especially hard when you don't expect them.*

When you are someone who stepping into your calling and involved in ministry in some way, shape, or form, you put a great target on your back. We try to warn our new high school leaders of this as they step into the ministry. *Thankfully He who is in us is greater than He who is in the world.*

Jesus taught the disciples that if the world hates them, it's because it hated Him first. *He wanted them to know that the source of hostility was* ***because of Him*** *not them.*

We can often wonder what we did wrong when Jesus would tell us that it has nothing to do with us.

1 John 3:13
13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

Marvel: to be surprised

Why? Because Jesus said that He was sending us as sheep **in the midst** of wolves.
The midst: "*mesos*" – among, with, in the middle of, something surrounded by other things

Jesus uses this word to describe the inescapable nature of being surrounded by enemies.
C.S. Lewis coined the term that as believers we are living in *"Enemy Occupied Territory"*

In this single verse, Jesus uses four different animals to illustrate the truth He is communicating. The first two animals illustrate the conditions that we are sent into. *Let's look at the first one…*

Sheep

All throughout Scripture God's people are referred to as sheep which is not the most endearing term but it's certainly accurate. The Bible paints a vivid picture that we are the sheep of His pasture and that He is the Good Shepherd.

Out of all the animals that could have been picked to illustrate God's people, sheep really are the most fitting. You see sheep can't survive very long without a shepherd to care for them.

Without the close watch of a shepherd, a sheep will eat poisonous weeds without thinking twice about it. They are very susceptible to infections and disease, so they need to be carefully inspected by the shepherd often.

Flies buzzing around their eyes and ears have been known to irritate and frighten sheep to the point that they will beat their heads into rocks or trees until they die. When they do feel like they're in danger they run and sometimes fall with no ability to get back on their feet again.
Yet the sheep's greatest danger always remains wolves. It was the shepherds greatest challenge to keep the wolves away from the sheep. *A sheep in the midst of a pack of wolves had no chance.*

Jesus refers to them as sheep for them to recognize their own vulnerabilities, weaknesses, and their dire need that as they were sent, they must stay close to the Shepherd.

While we might be defenseless sheep *(sheep have no claws or sharp teeth)***,** we have a GOOD Shepherd who provides and protects us.

1 Peter 2:25
25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.
Hebrews 13:20
20 Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Do you know what a sheep without a shepherd is called? A goner. But thankfully we have the great Shepherd of the sheep to watch over our souls.

Wolves

As sheep in midst of wolves, that is plural, indicating a pack of wolves. Every time the Bible mentions wolves it's always in a negative light.

Jesus spoke about false prophets being like ravenous wolves who would come in sheep's clothing and Paul spoke about false teachers being like savage wolves who would come in among them not sparing the flock.

Jesus goes on in this chapter to identify the wolves as men who will come against them and deliver them up to judgment.

But notice here what's different, the wolves weren't coming to the sheep, the sheep were sent out to go into the pack of wolves. *This was beyond unnatural and in no way normal.*

The fact that the Shepherd would send his sheep into the very midst of the wolves would be strikingly odd. *It is almost as if they are the attacking party rather than the wolves.*

This isn't the safe route, but it is the right one. We can go forward with confidence knowing that while we don't have what it takes in ourselves the Bible tells us that we are more than conquerors…

Romans 8:36-37
36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." **37** Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

We know that even in the face of death itself our Good Shepherd will see us through.

God will intentionally put us into situations that seem impossible. He will send us into environments that on the surface makes it look like there is no way of victory. God loves beating the odds so that He might get all the glory. This is why He told Gideon that his army was too big and dwindled it down to only 300 men so that when they were victorious, God would get all the glory.

Regardless of the terrible nature of the wolves, the sheep are to obey the shepherd and not allow any environment to persuade them to retreat. ***The conditions can never factor into our obedience.***

And of course, Jesus exampled this in His life. He too was sent into this world as the Lamb of God. He endured the world's hostility to the greatest extent. To the point of death, even death on the cross. It was not the safe path or the easy one, but He endured and in the end was ultimately victorious as He rose from the grave *because it was not possible that death could hold Him.*

So, we must know that the conditions we have been personally sent into by Jesus are extremely hostile. By all appearances it will look like we are the prey and *yet we are never out of reach of the Shepherd who sent us.*

But we must not be surprised when we experience resistance, we must expect it and embrace it. Not because we enjoy it but because we trust the words of Jesus that told us that in Him we can have peace and even be of good cheer *because He has us in His grip.*

The Application: Prudence & Purity *(verse 16c)*

Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

We've looked at the delegation *(that Jesus sends them personally),* we've looked at **the conditions** in which Jesus sends His disciples as sheep in the midst of wolves *(that is a hostile environment).*

Jesus then brings them to <u>the application</u> of how He wants them to live as they navigate the mission ahead with both *prudence and purity*, with wisdom and harmlessness.

"Therefore" – *"In light of My sending you into hostility here is the needed approach and the necessary application."*

Jesus lists two more animals as illustrations on the type of approach He wants them to take. These two specific instructions perfectly balance one another. If we only take one, we will veer off the prepared path and if we only take the second but leave the first one, we will veer off in the other direction. *Both are absolutely needed to live the lives that Jesus wants us to in this wild world.*

1) Be Wise *(as serpents)*

be wise as serpents

Serpents or snakes are mentioned over 80 times in the Bible and out of those 80 times, this is one of the unique places where a serpent is actually described in a favorable light.

We're first introduced to a serpent in Genesis 3, one of the first animals ever mentioned…

Genesis 3:1
Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made.

Cunning: crafty, discerning, sensible, skillful *(translated as "prudent" in Proverbs)*

This wasn't a negative or evil thing that God had made. This was actually a good thing! The idea of cunning was that the serpent was smart! And of course, in a typical fashion, that is the animal that Satan goes for to mess up Eve. *Satan took advantage of what God had made for his evil purposes.*

Now you might not initially think of a snake as wise. That isn't typically what comes to mind. There is a funny story that <u>Pastor Chuck Smith use to tell of a biology professor..</u>
I heard a professor in biology making fun of the knowledge of Christ by pointing out to the class that serpents really weren't wise, and so for the Lord to say, "be as wise as serpents," was a rather stupid thing, and showed that He had really very little knowledge of biology. One of the students spoke up in class and said, "Well…How long do you think you would survive without any arms or legs, and you had to take care of yourself out in the desert?

Think about it…. snakes are one of the most hated animals, yet they continue to multiply and flourish. There is no worry that snakes will go extinct however much we might wish that was the case.

Snakes have the ability to live on every continent and in every part of the world.
Snakes are able to function in every sphere: on land, in the sea, in fresh water, and even in the air. Yes, there is such things as flying snakes, they more like glide but still. The point is that they have an incredible ability to **SURVIVE & ADAPT** to just about any environment.

Snakes are patient. They strike at the perfect moment. They are able to catch prey way faster than them because they outsmart them. *The wisdom of snake is certainly mighty.*

Now if there weren't any wolves, then the disciples would have no need for this kind of wisdom. You see the disciples were to be sheep who were dependent on the Shepherd but that doesn't mean they were to be dumb doormats but rather wise serpents.

There is handful of words in Greek that can be translated into wisdom, this is the one He uses…

Wise: *"phronimos"* – to be marked by the exercise of good judgment or common sense in practical matters, having the capacity to understand the daily things of life, prudent, sensible

This Greek word indicates specifically practical wisdom opposed to other Greek words that refer to theoretical wisdom. *That's why I think prudence is a great word to use here, it is practical wisdom.*

Wisdom was a topic Jesus talked about often. In **Luke 16**, Jesus uses this same Greek word for ***"wise"*** but it is translated as the word ***"shrewd"*** *(not a word you really hear these days)*

Jesus tells the story of a certain rich man who had a steward with an accusation that was brought against him that this steward was wasting his money. The rich man calls his steward for him to give an answer for this and an account for the money that he managed.

After finding out that his boss was aware of what was going on he began to go to those who owed his boss money, and he would cut the amount of money they owed in half for them. He did this in his present situation as he was thinking about the future knowing he was going to be out of a job. He at least got his boss paid something even though it was less than what was owed and did this favor for these people who were in debt with an expectation on them owing him one.

At the end of this, we are told that the master actually commends the unjust steward because he had dealt *SHREWDLY or WISELY*.

You would think Jesus would then condemn this, but he actually uses it to rebuke the disciples!

Luke 16:8
8 So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.

Those in the world use the means of the world for their selfish gain, but how much more should we as believers use the things of the world for the glory of God! We have a way better motivation to take advantage of our resources but can often fail to do so for the glory of God. **Jesus here was calling His disciples to be faithful** with what they were given which as we know isn't just hiding it in the ground but multiplying it for God's glory!

This prudence is not only to be applied to what we do but also to what we say.

Colossians 4:5-6
[5] Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time. [6] *Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

The primary way that Paul expounds on how to walk in wisdom and redeem the time is regarding not just what we say but how we say it.

He gives three instructions here for wise speech toward unbelievers: It ought to be first gracious *(this is what distinguishes us from the unbeliever),* it should be seasoned with salt meaning that it should be flavorful but also purifying, as salt has a preserving effect to it, *(he doesn't say sugar)* and lastly our speech should be very discerning. *"knowing how you ought to answer each one"*

This isn't two faced, this is wisdom. Paul was a great example of becoming all things to all men. *Never compromising the truth but adapting it to the hearer.*

If Jesus has given us the command to be wise as serpents, then He will supply the wisdom that we need to leverage the things of this world for the KINDGOM of God. And if we sense that we lack this wisdom, then just like James said to do we are to ask God for it without doubting and He will give His wisdom to us liberally and without reproach. *(generously and graciously)*

This command from Jesus to be wise as serpents is **perfectly balanced** with His command to be harmless as doves. *A bird with only one wing cannot fly and a believer who is prudent but not pure won't make it very far.*

2) Be Harmless *(as doves)*

and harmless as doves.

To this very day a dove is an international symbol of peace. The origin of this symbol come out of Gensis 8 where Noah sends out a dove and eventually it came back with a freshly picked olive leave in its mouth indicating the receding flood waters just as God had said.

A dove was the only bird that could be offered as a sacrifice in the Old Testament being a picture of purity. They were used as sacrifices seen all the way back to Abraham. It was the animal that someone in poverty would often choose to offer to the Lord.

This is what Jesus' family offered to the Lord after He was born…

Luke 2:24
[24] and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

This was also the bird that was used as an illustration of the way that the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus. *And this is a great picture that just as we need the Holy Spirit in order to walk in wisdom, we need the Holy Spirit to demonstrate and display this idea of harmlessness or really what is purity.*

With the modern connotation of our English word harmless, I don't think it really captures what this Greek word fully means. When we think of harmless, we think of weak, docile, and worthless. But look here what the fullness of this word means.

Harmless: *"akeraios" ak-er'-ah-yos* – innocent, unmixed, simple, pure, uncontaminated
This word was used to describe pure wine that wasn't mixed with water or unalloyed metals that were not tainted with other materials.

Harmlessness here is really the idea of living a life of purity from this filth of this world.

Paul in Philippians uses this word combined with being blameless…

Philippians 2:14-15
14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

The world is crooked and perverse, but we are to be blameless and harmless **SO THAT** we might be seen as children of God and stand out as lights in a dark world. *These two words go hand in hand.*
Blameless: faultless, free from guilt

While to some degree the world can have an appearance of wisdom like a serpent, this harmlessness of a dove is something altogether unique to the follower of Christ.

Romans 16:19b
but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.
Simple *is the same word as harmless in our text.*

We are to be wise, but the end never justifies the means. We are to embrace the balance of prudence and purity.

Daniel is a GREAT example of this type of balance. From even a young age, Daniel held to his convictions and remained pure by not defiling himself with the king's delicacies but was wise in how he handled that situation with those who were in charge of him asking to eat only vegetables.

Because of both his prudence and his purity, God was able to use him in a pagan nation in mighty ways. God exalted him to great places of leadership & even at the end of Daniel's life, we're told this:

Daniel 6:4
4 So the governors and satraps sought to find *some* charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he *was* faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.
Daniel was harmless as a dove, blameless, unmixed, pure even in the most godless of nation.

Jesus truly lived his life walking in wisdom but always remained harmless as a dove.

Hebrews 7:26
26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

Yet Jesus' purity did not contribute to a lack of prudence. *He lived out both practically.*
We see this best displayed when the religious leaders would try to trap Him in his words.
He was always able to answer in such a way that was shrewd and innocent in that it shut up hypocrites and gave no cause for accusation against Him. They couldn't catch Him in his words and would marvel at His answers.

Really the only way they could "get" Jesus was to lie about Him. They brought in those false witnesses against Him and here again we Jesus' example of harmlessness.

1 Peter 2:23
23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

This is what it looks like to live as harmless as a dove. That even when we are wronged in this world for Christ, we don't revile we don't threaten, we simply commit our lives to Him as a faithful Creator.

C. H. Spurgeon
This defenselessness, however, which looks like our weakness, is our real strength. Our being harmless appears to predict sure destruction, but it is to be the means of certain victory. You are to be gentle, and easily entreated; you are not to fly into a passion because you are contradicted, nor to be angry because you are reviled. You are to endure contradiction and slander with tenderness and gentleness, as a dove bears all things. You are not to be driven into any sin by opposition. The dove is pure; it loveth to be by the rivers of waters, in the quiet and clean places. So do you never be driven to sinful word or deed, but do good to all men, and glorify God in all things, by being both gentle and pure as a dove.

And so, in turn we are to follow His example and obey these instructions…

1 Thessalonians 5:15
15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

ALWAYS pursue what is good. Don't overcome evil with evil but evil with good. Embrace being harmless, innocent and pure before the Lord no matter what comes your way.

But don't let yourself mistake harmlessness for weakness or the inability to be wise in action and word. *Jesus was harmless but He always knew what to say, when to say, and how to say it.*

Prudence without purity is just worldly craftiness but **purity without prudence** is altogether ineffective in this world of wolves.

To live a successful Christian life, we have to strive to strike this balance between the serpent and the dove. *Purity is not to ever be confused with passivity.*

I believe Jesus had to give this instruction to His disciples because naturally we are the opposite of what He wants us to be. Without His help we can be as guilty as serpents and as dumb as doves.

But He has not left us to figure this out on our own. He would later tell these disciples in the upper room during the last supper that it was actually to their advantage that He would go away so that the Helper, the Holy Spirit would come. He would dwell in them and guide them into all truth. He would teach them all things and bring to their memory all that Jesus had taught them.

This is how the effective Christian life works. We learn what Jesus has spoken to us and then as we walk in step with the Holy Spirit, *He is the One who works through us this blessed balance.*

Just a few sentences later Jesus would say this…

Matthew 10:20
[20] for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

This is it. It is God in us. As we continually submit our lives to Him, He transforms us into the servants that we are supposed to be for His sake.

We end here with the results of living out this divine balance in this lost world…

1 Peter 2:12
[12] having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

What is the day of visitation? This refers to the day that someone will stand before God and it will be our witness on that day of being both prudent and pure, wise and harmless that will stand the test of time and be used *to bring even greater glory to the God that we serve.*

[16] "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

ALL FOR HIS GLORY