

MISLEADING

People are spreading dangerous lies, Father.

Social media is rife
With dangerous and unfounded remedies
Which claim to cure or prevent this virus:

drink water;
gargle with salt and vinegar;
inject disinfectant;
drink antiseptic.

Hundreds died from fake remedies.
Are the disseminators naïve
Or intentionally destructive?

There is no shortage of charlatans,
who mislead others,
for gain or sadistic pleasure.
Jesus spoke against such people,
Warning of skilled deceivers
who delight in leading us astray,
Even in matters of faith.

Make me discerning, Father,
Able to recognise those who would point to paths
That lead away from your love.
For I want always
To stay close to you.

Beware of false teachers who come disguised as harmless sheep, but are wolves and will tear you apart. You can detect them by the way they act, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit. You need never confuse grapevines with thorn bushes or figs with thistles. Different kinds of fruit trees can quickly be identified by examining their fruit. A variety that produces delicious fruit never produces an inedible kind. And a tree producing an inedible kind can't produce what is good. So the trees having the inedible fruit are chopped down and thrown on the fire. Yes, the way to identify a tree or a person is by the kind of fruit produced. (Matthew 7: 15–20, TLB)