

# “Don’t Drink the Kool-Aid”

## Luke 14:1-6

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Sept. 25, 2022

**Luke 14:1-6** “One Sabbath, when He went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching Him carefully. <sup>2</sup> And behold, there was a man before Him who had dropsy. <sup>3</sup> And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, ‘Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?’ <sup>4</sup> But they remained silent. Then He took him and healed him and sent him away. <sup>5</sup> And He said to them, ‘Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?’ <sup>6</sup> And they could not reply to these things.”

### I. You need to take false teaching as seriously as God does!

#### A. The Bible contains vivid and powerful language in reference to false teachers.

##### a. In the Old Testament...

- “mute dogs, unable to bark” (Isa. 56:10)
- “demented fools” (Hos. 9:7)
- “reckless, treacherous men” (Zeph. 3:4)

##### b. Jesus Himself...

- “ravenous wolves” (Matt. 7:15)
- “blind guides for the blind” (Matt. 15:14)
- “hypocrites,” “fools,” “whitewashed tombs full of bones,” “serpents,” “brood of vipers” (Matt. 23:13,17,27,33)

##### c. Elsewhere in the New Testament...

- “savage wolves” (Acts 20:29)
- “slaves of their own appetites” (Rom. 16:18)
- “servants of Satan” (2 Cor. 11:15)

#### B. You don’t need to “hunt” for false teachers, but you better know one when you see one.

**2 Peter 2:1** “But false prophets also arose among the people, **just as there will be false teachers among you**, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.”

#### 3 Ways To Recognize A False Teacher

1. False teachers won’t speak the truth about **Jesus** (or will avoid Him altogether).

**Matthew 16:15-16** “He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”

**2 John 1:9** “Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.”

**1 John 2:22** “Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.”

2. False teachers will preach a different **Gospel** than the one found in the Bible.

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4** “Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

**Galatians 1:9** “As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”

3. False teachers will not grow in **Christ-like character**.

**Jude 1:11** “Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam’s error and perished in Korah’s rebellion.”

**Matthew 7:19-20** “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.”

## **II. You need to know the best way to spot a counterfeit is to study the real thing - Jesus Christ and His Word!**

**2 Timothy 2:15** “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly handling the word of truth.**”

### **Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:**

- 1) What in your life shows you take seriously the need to guard against false teaching?
- 2) Pastor Peter gave a sample of what the Bible has to say about false teachers. Which 1-3 examples stood out to you? Why?
- 3) When was a time when you were confronted with a false teaching? How did you respond?
- 4) Why is it helpful to be a part of a Community Group when it comes to keeping your life free of false teaching?
- 5) Reread 2 Timothy 2:15. What practices of Bible intake have helped you “rightly handle the word of truth”?