



Little Foxes

Song of Solomon 2:15

“Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.”

Years ago my father preached a message with this title and it impressed me along with many others who heard the message. Though this material is different in content the concept has been maintained. There are little dangers, little sins, those little foxes that spoil the vines. We must pay attention and protect those vines and the tender grapes before they are destroyed.

The writer is giving us a word picture of the fox, little foxes. They are entering the garden and chewing the bark from the vines and eating the ripened grapes. Though they may be but little foxes they spoil, or destroy, the vines. The primary thought is that little seemingly trivial things left unchecked can cause terrible damage and absolute destruction. We must guard ourselves against little foxes (common pests) that can do great harm to a Christian’s life and peace. These little foxes cannot be tamed or rendered harmless; they must be captured and removed. The old nature cannot be tamed or rendered harmless; he must be crucified with Christ. Our beloved is charging us, calling us and caring for us.

I. The Charge, vs. 10, 13

A. Arise

1. The time has come to get up, to withdraw from your slumber. The season for rest has ended, "*the winter is past.*" Or the time of mourning is past.
2. The voice of your beloved has been heard; he comes leaping upon the mountains, skipping upon the hills, vs. 8. He is getting close; awake, the time has come. Can you see him?
3. Arise, for he is within the walls, he is looking for you. He is "*shewing himself through the lattice.*"
4. Arise, You were neglectful of your vineyard (1:6) because of the obligations put upon you by others.

B. Come away,

1. Come to a more intimate fellowship. Set aside the toils of the day, the stillness of winter.
2. Give time to commune with your beloved, come away from your refuge among the rugged rocks.
3. Come away from where you must hide for protection. Come away and find Christ as your refuge, find Christ to be your place of protection.
4. Everything for us is in Christ; we are accepted in the beloved, (Eph. 1:6), all is in him.
5. He wants us to come to him; he wants us to speak to him. Come away and offer praise and prayer, come away and offer your worship, (vs. 14).

II. The Consideration, vs. 14

A. Commit boldly and passionately

1. "*Let me see thy countenance*" lift up your face, put your eyes upon my own. Come without fear, come in hope, and come with affection to your beloved.
2. Leave your refuge, come and be with me. The sound of his coming has made me compare him to the agile, graceful and quick and young hart, (vs. 9).

3. Come to him with love and appreciation
- B. Commit personally and prayerfully
 1. *“Let me hear thy voice”* for it is pleasant (*“sweet”*), and your countenance beautiful. He desires us to talk with him of our day, of our needs, of our struggles. Cast your burden upon him because if it is a care to you it is a care for him, (I Peter 5:7).
 2. But we must also let him hear our voice of appreciation, of gratitude, and of dedication. Lift your voice of praise and trust, (Psalm 139:23-24).
 3. *“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.”* (Psa. 100:4)

III. The Care, 15

- A. Take the foxes
 1. Handle the foxes, seize them, and take possession of them. Seize these diminutive destroyers.
 2. Take these common wild pests that are a persistent source of trouble when spring arrives. Seize them.
 3. In our area squirrels are common, foxes were as common to them (Samson caught 300).
 4. The foxes must be dealt with; we cannot leave them to do as they please. There are false teachers, false counsel, and false notions to be removed.
 5. We must cast down every imagination... that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, (II Cor. 10:5).
- B. The little foxes
 1. It only takes a *“little folly”* to turn a sweet smelling man into a stinking attractant for flies, (Ecc. 10:1). Our reputations can be ruined with one act of idiocy. It is more difficult to repair a reputation than to maintain it.
 2. It only takes a *“little member”* to get us into a lot of trouble, (James 3:5). *“Behold how great a matter a*

little fire kindleth!"It doesn't take much fuel to get a roaring, out of control, destructive and consuming fire when it comes from our tongue.

3. It only takes a "*little slumber*" to bring one to a state of poverty (Pro. 6:10-11). Inactivity, procrastination, lacking determination and dedication, even in a diminutive form is dangerous if not dealt with. It will lead to poverty, not just in economics. Consider your conscience at the end of the day and who sleeps best, (Ecc. 5:12)?
 4. Pay attention to the small destructive forces in your lives; take control of their effect in your life. Don't let them destroy the fruit of the Spirit by misdirecting your walk.
- C. That spoil the vines
1. The spoiling of the vital relationship by a break in our intimate fellowship is in view.
 2. We need to be involved in our own personal garden. We've been busy tending to everyone else's garden, we felt obligated and neglected the little foxes that spoil the vines and ruin the tender grapes in our own vineyard, (1:6).
 3. The fruit of our lives comes from our close and intimate walk with the Spirit of God, Gal. 5:22-23. If we walk on our own, and not under the direct influence we can only produce the natural fruit of the flesh.
 4. Take care of the tender young grapes that are produced by the Spirit of God in our lives. Don't let the little foxes spoil the vines of praise, of prayer, and of purpose in our lives.