

BEWARE THE LITTLE FOXES

Song of Solomon (also known as Song of Songs) 2:15

*“Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards—
for our vineyards are in blossom.”*

The Song of Solomon is a love story. Many consider it to be parabolic in reference to God’s love for his people. Remember, the church is called the bride of Christ. Ephesians says, “Christ loved the church and gave himself for it.”

The image of a vineyard is often use in the OT to describe the people of God. God is presented as the farmer who cares for and nourishes the growing vine.

- Example: Isaiah 5:1-7
- In John 15, Jesus describes himself as the Vine and His disciples as the branches. The union of the vine and the branches is our source of strength. Jesus said, *“Without me you can do nothing.”*
- The image of the vineyard is a “type” of God’s people – the growth of the vineyard is indicative of what God hopes for His people at the spiritual level
- The problem is that in the OT the vine *always* fails and is judged
- Failure is not necessary – it happens because of things that disturb the process
- Listen again to Song of Solomon 2:15 –

Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in blossom.

I. CATCH THE LITTLE FOXES

1. The Hebrew word for “catch” means “to seize” or “to lay hold of”
2. He’s telling us to get hold of, get control over the little foxes
3. Do this before they do damage to the fruit on the vines
4. Little foxes can ruin the whole vineyard
5. This text - in context - applies to husband and wife and marriage
6. It’s the little foxes that can creep in by stealth and destroy a marriage, relationships, a home, a family
7. But I want to lift this text to the level of Christ and His church
8. This scripture is telling us that when the vineyard is in blossom – ready to produce – alive and growing- THEN the little foxes come out to play

9. 1 Peter 5:8 (KJV)

⁸Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

10. The foxes come out when the vine is in blossom – when growth is about to take place

II. IDENTIFY THE LITTLE FOXES

1. In order to catch the little foxes – you have to identify them
2. The writer of the Song of Solomon is using the idea of “little foxes” in a figurative way
3. Little things can cause controversy and damage
 - a. Attitudes – fear, anger, hurt
 - b. Self and self-centeredness and selfishness
 - c. The tongue (James 3:5-8)

⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue – it is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.
 - d. Opinions
 - e. Minor problems that arise between church members
 - f. Imaginary issues that never come to fruition
 - g. Lack of love, acceptance, and forgiveness
4. Identify the “little foxes”

III. DEFEND THE CHURCH AGAINST THE LITTLE FOXES

1. Good things are happening in the life of Oak Hill BC – even better things are on the way
2. Church people often talk about “being on the verge of something”
3. “Something good is about to happen”
4. Too often we look forward to what is “about to happen” and are blind to what has already happened
5. Oak Hill Baptist Church is a blessed church

6. Things might not be 100% the way you'd like for them to be, but the church is doing well
7. Focus on God's will and purpose
8. Don't allow the little foxes to distract you
9. The devil doesn't want the church to be focused – united – dedicated to God's vision for His church
10. "Without a vision the people perish"
11. It is in this context that we need to be on guard against the little foxes
12. The little foxes come out when God is on the move

IV. BE ON GUARD AGAINST LITTLE FOXES

1. We need to die to self
2. We need to commit ourselves to Christ
3. We need to commit ourselves to oneness, unity, the mind of Christ
4. We need to commit ourselves to be His body, the church, the family of God
5. We need to commit to a cause bigger than self and self-interest