

Little Foxes- Little Words, Big Consequences

Song of Solomon 2:15 ¹⁵ “Catch the foxes for us, The little foxes that are ruining the vineyards, While our vineyards are in blossom.”

The vineyards have the potential to bear much fruit, but there are foxes running through them, tearing off the flowers.

In much the same way, God brings each of us to a place of spiritual fruitfulness, but the fruit is under threat!

If we do not “nip in the bud” the things that are nipping at the buds in our lives, we will have no fruit left to bear.

It is significant that the problem is foxes, and that they are little.

Foxes are known for their cunning, sly nature. Smallness means that we are apt to overlook them or underestimate their destructive capacity. Yet they are capable of bringing about total RUIN!

The foxes: The words of our mouths- particularly slander, gossip, criticism, and judgmental speech.

James 3:3-10 ³ Now if we put the bits into the horses’ mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well. ⁴ Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. ⁸ But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; ¹⁰ from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

Leviticus 19:16 ¹⁶ You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the Lord.

Psalms 140:11 ¹¹ “May a slanderer not be established in the earth; May evil hunt the violent man speedily.”

Proverbs 16:28 A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends.

There are also multiple verses that indicate that gossips and slanderers SIMPLY LACK PURPOSE- THEY HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO.

Proverbs 25:23 ²³ The north wind brings forth rain, And a backbiting tongue, an angry countenance.

Your face is telling on you. Why can’t you look the person in the eye, and why do you look so miserable? It is because you have been slandering them and the Spirit within you is sick over it.

Revelation 12:10b ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ... the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

When you hear accusations against God’s children in your own spirit, you circulate them! You are doing the devil’s work in the house of God!

Zechariah 3:1-7 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ²The Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, the Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?” ³ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and standing before the angel. ⁴ He spoke and said to those who were standing before him, saying, “Remove the filthy garments from him.” Again he said to him, “See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes.” ⁵ Then I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments, while the angel of the Lord was standing by. ⁶ And the angel of the Lord admonished Joshua, saying, ⁷ “Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘If you will walk in My ways and if you will perform My service, then you will also govern My house and also have charge of My courts, and I will grant you free access among these who are standing *here*.’”

Be children of your Father in heaven! When he hears accusation, he immediately begins the restoration.

When Jesus was being crucified, he prayed for His persecutors with compassion and mercy. How have you endured the wrong done to you?

Ephesians 4:29-32 ²⁹ Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such *a word* as is good for edification according to the need *of the moment*, so that it will give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.