



LITTLE FOXES

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“Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil (ruin) the vines, for our vines have tender grapes.” – Song of Songs 2: 15

Foxes are animals belonging to the dog family. They live in holes burrowed in the ground. They are very cunning and crafty. When used to describe human beings it means the fellow is cunning, crafty and deceptive. A vineyard is a large farmland filled with vines. Vines are tender twinning plants bearing grapes which produce juicy fruits rich in vitamin C which is one of the essential vitamins necessary for the healing of wounds and boosts the immune system of the body.

“The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the house of Israel.” – Isaiah 5: 7a

The body of Christ is the Vineyard of God and Christians no doubt are spiritual Israelites. Each of us is a vine in God’s vineyard.

“That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.” – Isaiah 61: 3b

Just as foxes ruin the physical vineyard by digging holes in the ground thereby exposing and rooting out the plants meant to bear fruits whose juice is essential for nourishment, healing and boosting human immunity, in likewise manner certain behavioral patterns are best described as foxes to the vineyard of the Lord and body of believers.

These foxes appear very small and insignificant to many but are potent enough as tools in the hands of the devil the enemy of our souls to wreck havoc amongst God’s people and if care is not taken can debar a believer from making heaven, God’s glorious and ultimate home for His own. They are little leaven which leavens the whole lump, tiny sparks of fire that can set the magnificent building of God’s house ablaze if we permit such.

When these little foxes are allowed to dig holes in and spoil our lives as vines in God's farmland, wounds are inflicted in the soul. Some of these wounds become putrefying sores and turn the fellowship we share sour. Serious offences, tensions, strives, and infighting results. Our lives which are then supposed to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit and manifest His gifts then become so detestable to God and unfit for His indwelling and use.

I am sure you want to know what these little foxes are. This writing is not exhaustive, only a few of the spoilers will be mentioned here while I trust the Holy Spirit to continue and finish His work in your heart as you read. Remember God knows you more than any one else. He has promised to prune our vines that we may not be fruitless. Gossip, Slander, Backbiting, Busy-bodging are the only little foxes to be treated here.

Gossip is an idle talk about someone. Any one who gossips obviously is idle, not fully or gainfully engaged, has loose time for which he or she has no plan to effectively utilize for productive work. Such people are readily employed by the devil to talk about others, saying things they are never bold enough to declare before their targets. Paul warned that young widows can readily fall in this category.

“But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, having condemnation because they have cast off their faith. And besides they learn to be idle, wandering from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.” – 1 Timothy 5: 11-13

We all know however that not only young widows are guilty of gossip. Women generally are given to talking more than men. It is a proven fact that girls learn to speak earlier and faster than boys of the same age. Women are better linguists worldwide and discuss with each other more too.

While it is true that men also gossip, backbite and slander, women do so much more. If we can wage war against these unwanted and destructive little foxes and win as women great will be the transformation and revival that will spring forth in the body of Christ in these end times. The power of the Holy Spirit will descend as at Pentecost and even much more, for the glory of the latter house must be greater than that of the former.

Slander is a false utterance about someone with the intention to destroy the victim's character or reputation. Slanderers also harbor hatred in their hearts, the scripture calls them fools and God promised to destroy them.

“Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him will I destroy, the one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, him I will not endure.” – Psalm 101: 5

In the early church having a slanderous woman as wife disqualifies a man from spiritual service. The standard of God has not changed. If He did not condone slander in the Old Testament and the early church He will not do so now.

“Likewise, deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, ...their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things.” – 1Timothy 3: 8&11

Backbiters are people who deliberately speak evil of others behind them. If any one must backbite he or she must do it behind the victim. No wonder such people are always relegated to the background in all their endeavors. They never meet or measure up to their victims. They are classified in the same category as the wicked, sexually immoral, haters of God e.t.c.

“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to debased mind, to do things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful.” – Romans 1: 28-31

Busybodies combine gossip, backbiting, and slander. They are multiple specialists in inventing evil moving from one fellow to the other, as many as would give them audience to perpetrate their evil schemes. If God promised to destroy gossips, backbiters, and slanderers and rejects them from serving in His vineyard, be sure He will not spare busybodies in anyway.

It is necessary at this point to note that not only those who harbor these little foxes that ruin God’s vineyard are guilty before Him but every one who approves and accommodates them. They also will receive God’s judgment upon their lives. This calls for soberness and serious mindedness. Mind the kind of people you relate with, for it is also a basis for your condemnation or commendation before God.

“Who knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” – Romans 1: 32