

# Catch the little foxes

The Song of Solomon records the love affair of King Solomon with a Shulammitte women.

## *Song of Solomon 2*

Within SOS 2 we find an important principle to maintain healthy relationships.

2:15 (ncv) Catch the foxes for us - the little foxes that ruin the vineyards while they are in blossom.

(nkjv) Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines, for our vines have tender grapes.

The Shulammitte woman declares her love for King Solomon and she speaks of the need to “catch the little foxes that destroy the vineyards.”

**It is the little things that are overlooked, that often spoil things of value. That can spoil relationships.**

The blossoming vineyard represents the growing relationship between the couple, and the “little foxes” represent those things that quietly go about destroying relationships.

Those potential problems that could damage their relationship prior to their marriage which takes place in chapter 5.

The bride-to-be is saying, in essence, “let us take all the necessary measures to protect our love from anything that could harm it.”

Their relationship was still tender, and it needed to be both protected and encouraged. When something is growing, then there will be dangers to that growth. EG: Children needing their immunisations to guard against sickness.

Note the little foxes come just as the growth appears (nkjv) our vines have tender grapes. When the vines come alive with new grapes,

## **What are these little foxes?**

Offence, wrong attitudes, insecurity, pride, unforgiveness, an unteachable spirit, wilful sin, unconfessed sin, injustice, shame, guilt and so on.

All these and more are like the little foxes that come to steal our joy and peace in the attempt to hinder our growth.

As we journey along and grow in our relationship with the Lord we encounter the foxes sent to stunt or to impede our growth.

Our enemy does not want us to know the true significance of our relationship and union with Jesus. He does not want us to know our authority and power over his weapons of sickness, sin and strongholds.

At times, we can feel like a pack of foxes are chasing us down – a never ending a continuous onslaught. We are in a fight like it or not!

Notice the foxes don't damage a branch that is 20 years old. The foxes target the new and tender grapes; the new blooms; the most tender spot on the vine.

The enemy attacks us where we are most vulnerable: the heart issues where we have been damaged through hurt and disappointment.

This is what Jesus said in response to the Pharisees challenging Jesus' claims of who he was:

John 8:44 (nlt) For you (the Pharisees) are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

These little foxes are often the lies that swirl around in our minds that eat away at our confidence, our self-esteem and self-worth.

These lies attack the areas in our life where we are most vulnerable - to hinder our growth onto maturity in Christ.

Foxes through their cunningness and craftiness can ruin a valuable harvest by devouring the bunches of tender young grapes.

## How do we guard against these little foxes?

### We must know our Opposition

Illustration: Team sport: knowing the strengths and game plan of the opposition.

No enemy can be defeated until he is identified, and his strategy understood! We should never underestimate our enemy's strength and cunningness.

**Our adversary - Satan - is as cunning as a fox.** Someone who is cunning has the ability to do or to achieve something in a clever way, often by deception.

Foxes are known to be cunning or crafty. EG: when foxes are being hunted they evade the hunting dogs by running up or down streams, or running along the tops of fences, and they possess other tactics to throw the hounds off their scent.

The grey fox possesses the ability to climb as an escape from danger. They have sharp, curved claws that assisting them to climb vertically by grasping a tree trunk with its fore feet and pushing upward with the hind feet. The grey fox is able to jump from one tree branch to another. It descends from a tree by backing down or simply running head first down a sloping tree. Pretty clever!

### Sometimes we cannot smell our adversary's scent.

We can be caught off guard. From out of nowhere the attack can come.

### We are not to be ignorant of his crafty strategy for our defeat.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (kjv) Lest Satan should get an advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices.

(niv) In order that Satan might not outwit (or outsmart) us, for we are not unaware of his schemes.

**Advantage** - (outwitted or outsmarted).

Greek: 'planet.' Meaning - "To go around - to orbit."

1 Peter 5:8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

The devil orbits around our lives trying to secure a spiritual 'advantage' over us through - wrong attitudes; pride, unforgiveness, an unteachable spirit, willful sin etc. These are open doors for the enemy to influence.

**Schemes** - (secretly plotting against).

Greek: 'noema.' Meaning - "To have a definite thought against. To ponder at length planning precisely someone's demise or defeat."

The enemy is continually taking notes and studying our manner of living to come up with a scheme or plan of how to injure us.

We must be on our guard, ready to defend and deflect the onslaughts of our enemy by using God's weaponry and armour that is available to us.

2 Corinthians 10:14 (niv) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.

Ephesians 6:10-17

Are their little foxes sneaking around you, trying to steal your joy and peace, preventing you from reaching your fullest potential in all God has for you?

- Your **thoughts**?
- Your **lifestyle** choices?
- Your **service** for Him?
- Your **marriage**?
- Your **relationships**?
- Your **vocation**?

Then catch (take or to seize) the little foxes that destroy and Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, (by submitting to God those wrong attitudes, unforgiveness don't believe the lies about yourself and your self-worth) and he (our enemy) will flee from you. James 4:7