

THE LITTLE FOXES.

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:15.

1. Little things are often dismissed and overlooked because they are thought to be unimportant. However, that is not true.

In fact, it is when we take care of the little things that the big things will take of themselves.

2. There is an old Proverb that says, 'You take care of the nickels, the dimes and the quarters, and the dollars will take care of themselves.'

It is an encouragement to save and to be thrifty.

3. Little things can play a major role in our lives. This is true in both the positive and the Negative sense.

Being aware of an enemy, whether it is large or small, is imperative.

4. Let's look at:

THE LITTLE FOXES.

- A. The Danger.
- B. The Definition.
- C. The Defeat.

A. THE DANGER OF THE LITTLE FOXES.

1. They can be as harmful as some other animal which may be many times their size. Little things can be very important.

Let me give you three examples:

- i. The launch of a manned space flight

had to be scrubbed because a small rubber seal would not close properly.

Trying to lift off before it was fixed would have been extremely dangerous.

ii. Then, there is the one small mutant cell which multiplies until the entire body is full of cancer. It started only as one cell and yet it can bring about death.

iii. Also, termites, that are almost invisible, can get into the woodwork and destroy the foundation of a luxury home.

The result can involve a major financial loss.

2. These are all small things. However, they have potential to do enormous damage.

King Solomon, in our Text, wasn't just referring to small animals that will ruin the fruit of a vineyard.

3. Instead, he was speaking about the secret sins in the life of a person that can harm his relationship with the Lord.

Here We See The Danger Of The Little Foxes.

It Involves A Failure To See Something As Harmful Because It Is Small.

B. THE DEFINITION OF THE LITTLE FOXES.

There are enemies that will secretly get into our lives and rob us of our harvest.

So we must be on guard against these invaders.

Let look at three of these enemies.

I. WRONG THOUGHTS.

- 1. Remember, the mighty oak tree had its

beginnings as a tiny acorn.

The thoughts of our minds have the same ability to grow and become giants that can dominate our lives.

2. They can multiply until they are out of control. This is true in the areas of egotism, jealousy and dwelling on impure thoughts.

Jealousy can be very damaging. I doubt there is anyone who has not experienced envy and jealousy at some time in his or her life.

3. For example:

The little boy who thinks 'I wish I had a red wagon like that one.'

The teenage girl who thinks 'I don't know why she has all the guys wanting to date her.'

The assistant manager who thinks 'Why was he promoted and not me?'

4. Gal. 5:26 (KJV) says, "Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."

(NLT) "Let us not become conceited, or irritate one another, or be jealous of one another."

If these emotions are not dealt with properly, they can become words and even actions.

5. Clarence Darrow (1857-1938) was a well-known American Lawyer who defended many liberal and labor causes.

In 1925 he defended John Scopes who was teaching Evolution in a Tennessee High School.

6. The Prosecution Attorney was William Jennings Bryan who was a Fundamentalist Christian and three times the Democratic Presidential Nominee.

Darrow once said, 'I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with a lot of pleasure.'

6. Now that is Wrong Thinking. We need to

guard our minds against impure thoughts.

Whenever an uninvited evil thought enters our minds, we must immediately replace it with one that is positive.

7. Phil 4:8 says "...Whatsoever things are true...honest...just...pure...lovely...of good report... think on these things."

One Definition of the Little Foxes is Wrong Thoughts. So we must guard our Minds and the Thoughts we Think.

II. WRONG WORDS.

1. During World War II a poster was prominently displayed in factories producing military hardware.

It read, 'Loose Lips Sink ships!'

2. Most people are unaware of the impact their words can have on people.

Criticism, gossip and distortion of the facts are far to common in many conversations today.

3. These 'Sins Of The Lip' are the result of an undisciplined tongue.

James 3:5 says that "...the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!"

It is almost impossible to repair the damage caused by an unfounded rumor.

4. I heard a story one time about a woman in Pennsylvania who worked at a day care center. It seems she had a dispute with the mother of one of the children.

Later that day, the upset mother suggested to one of her friends, 'I wouldn't be surprised if that woman was a

child molester.’

Before long, the rumor was out that the woman was molesting children. Even though there was no evidence to support the charge, the reputation of the woman was ruined beyond repair.

She became the object of endless suspicion. Eventually, she and her family left the area.

5. It was all because of a rumor by a woman who was upset.

We need to pray the words of Ps. 120:2, “Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue.”

6. Also, Ps. 141:3, “Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.”

Another Definition of the Little Foxes is Wrong Words. So we must guard our Lips and the Words we Speak.

III. WRONG ACTIONS.

1. An unintended thought or careless word can hurt ourselves and others.

However, our actions can be very harmful as well.

Some small act of unkindness or bad conduct would indicate an unclean heart or a wrong spirit.

2. So we must be on guard concerning our Thoughts, our Words and our Actions. Remember, they are all related.

In fact, they all had their beginning as a thought. There are no such things as ‘Good and Bad Sins.’ In the Sight of God, All Sin Is Sin.

3. There is no such thing as a ‘small murder’

or a ‘white lie.’ One is either truthful or he is not.

In our world today, there are many messages of caution.

4. ‘Please fasten your seat belt.’

‘The Surgeon General has declared that this product is dangerous to your health.’

We must beware of the Little Foxes. This warning must be taken seriously.

5. Small Things are only Big Things in Disguise. They may appear to be insignificant, but looks can be deceiving.

It has been said that ‘The beginnings of all things are small.’

6. Remember, the tiny acorn became the mighty oak as a result of time and growth.

Still another Definition of the Little Foxes is Wrong Actions. So we must guard our Actions and the Things we Do.

Here We See The Definition Of The Little Foxes.

It Involves Wrong Thoughts, Wrong Words And Wrong Actions.

C. THE DEFEAT OF THE LITTLE FOXES.

A small problem, no matter how trivial, must be dealt with immediately. To do this involves learning three things.

I. We Must Learn The Secret Of FRUIT BEARING.

1. We are not in this battle alone. There is Protection for us as there is Fruitfulness in our Lives.

When a person has a Personal Relationship with Christ, it is impossible for the Little Foxes to destroy the Vine.

Why? Because Jesus said in John 15:1, "I Am The Vine, and My Father is the Husbandman."

2. He is the Vine while we are the Branches.

In John 15:4-5, Jesus said to us as the Branches, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me."

"I Am The Vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for Without Me ye can do nothing."

3. We can only bear fruit that lasts as we draw our nourishment from the True Vine.

He not only Feeds us, but He Protects us as well.

Rom. 13:12 says, "...Let us put on the armour of light."

Rom. 13:13 says, "Let us walk honestly, as in the day..."

Rom. 13:14 tells us to "...Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof."

So we will Defeat the Little Foxes as we Learn the Secret of Fruit Bearing.

II. We Must Learn To SOW TO THE SPIRIT.

1. With Christ in the Vine, we have the Holy Spirit working in our lives.

Gal. 5:16 says, "...Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

2. Gal. 5:25 says, "If we live in the Spirit, let

us also walk in the Spirit."

It is as we Live and Walk in the Spirit that we will produce the Fruit of the Spirit.

3. Gal. 5:22-23 says that "...The Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith,"

"Meekness, Temperance..."

4. There are many laws in our world today. However, probably one of the best known is the Law of Sowing and Reaping.

We always Reap what we Sow. If we sow barley, we will reap barley, not wheat or oats.

5. It never fails. This is true in every area of life naturally or spiritually.

Gal. 6:7-8 says that "...Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth of the Spirit shall reap Life Everlasting."

So we will Defeat the Little Foxes as we Learn to Sow to the Spirit.

III. We Must Learn To CONTROL The LITTLE THINGS.

1. We must keep the door of our minds guarded and locked to every invading force in our lives.

Jesus said in John 15:16, "Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain; that whatsoever ye ask of the Father in My Name, He may give it you."

2. James 3:3-4 says, “Behold, we put bits in the horses’ mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.”

“Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.”

3. It doesn’t take a torpedo with a warhead to sink a battleship. The vessel will sink if there is only one small hole that is not repaired.

It need not be that large a hole. However, if the ship continues to take on water, it will eventually sink.

4. It’s the small things that can be so dangerous. We tend to overlook them because of their size.

However, if they are not brought under control, they will become a major problem.

5. A ‘little white lie’ is still a lie.

Stealing a small amount of money from a wealthy person is still stealing.

One glass of wine is the starting point for a life of alcoholism.

So we will Defeat the Little Foxes as we Learn to Control the Little Things.

6. Here We See The Defeat Of The Little Foxes.

It Involves Learning To Bear Fruit, To Sow To The Spirit And To Control The Little Things.

THE LITTLE FOXES.

1. THEIR DANGER.

They are harmful even though they may be small.

2. THEIR DEFINITION.

They are apparent in Wrong Thoughts, Words and Actions.

3. THEIR DEFEAT.

They are overcome as we Bear Fruit, Sow to the Spirit and Control the Little Things.

Let’s Beware of the Little Foxes and deal with them in the proper fashion!

Let’s do it!