

Little Foxes

S. of S. 2:15

Faith

Neglect

1 Tim. 4:1-3.

1 Cor. 16:1-3.

Heb. 10:24-27.

Long

Impatience

2 Cor. 6:4.

Rom. 12:12.

Heb. 10:36.

Suffering

Joy

Love

Envy

Mk 15:9-10; Jas. 3:16.

Eph. 4:31.

Peace

Worldliness

1 Jno. 2:15-17.

Malice

Joy

LITTLE FOXES

Song of Solomon 2:15

INTRO: It was the little foxes that destroyed the vineyards. Not the big foxes, but the little sly ones entered the vineyard and destroyed the tender grapes. It is not big outrageous sins that destroy the vineyard of the Lord today. It is the little faults and failures that destroy, the things we consider just little things. (If I do not do anything any worse than ...) Little foxes destroy the fruit of the Spirit. Notice the fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22-24.

I. LITTLE FOX: NEGLECT

This little fox involves ignoring things. He destroys the fruit of the Spirit, faith. Men fail to study, so fall away from the faith. We must not neglect study. 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Tim. 4:1-3. We destroy the fruit of the Spirit, faith, when we neglect to give. 1 Cor. 16:1-2. People's faith is destroyed when they neglect to assemble. Heb. 10:25. Let us rid ourselves of the little fox of neglect lest he keep us from bearing fruit.

II. LITTLE FOX: IMPATIENCE

This little fox destroys longsuffering. We must suffer long. We must learn to be patient. This little fox slips in and destroys fruit bearing. 2 Cor. 6:4. We fall away many times because we are not patient. Rom. 12:12; Heb. 10:36. We need to learn to be more patient with brethren. It takes time for some to come around. Parents need patience while teaching a baby.

III. LITTLE FOX: ENVY

This little fox destroys love. There cannot be love where envy is present. The chief priests were full of envy. Jesus was attracting more attention; he was doing more. They had Him put to death. They could not love Him; they were filled with envy. Mark 15:9-10; James 3:16. There is nothing too low and mean for one driven by envy. This is the cause of most trouble in the church. 1 Cor. 13:4. We must have love. We must rid ourselves of this little fox of envy. We can win through love.

IV. LITTLE FOX: WORLDLINESS

This little fox destroys peace. If worldliness is in a congregation, it causes trouble from within and without. If we are worldly minded, we cannot be spiritual; we must be spiritual to grow. 1 John 2:15-17; Gal. 5:24. Every sin can be put in one of three categories. Think on spiritual things.

V. LITTLE FOX: MALICE

This little fox destroys joy. Malice is a disposition to injure another; it reflects evil intent, spite, and ill will. With this spirit present, there cannot be joy. Some just look for little things. Like buzzards, they find fault with grammar and miss the whole lesson. Eph. 4:31-32. There is no joy when malice is present.

CONCL: We must rid ourselves of these Little Foxes. Song of Solomon 2:15.