

Message by Pastor Dapo Akinosun

Topic: Beware of the Foxes

Bible Reading: Songs of Solomon 2:15

Foxes, a generic name which includes jackals, are very peculiar animals. They dig and live in holes and are quite cunning, sly and very clever. They are known to destroy vineyards in various ways. Either by gnawing and breaking the little branches and leaves, or by digging holes in the vineyard which spoil the roots. The little foxes are also known to creep in to eat the tender and ripe grapes, but do not eat the flowers. So care has to be taken to chase away the foxes before the grape is ripe.

Believers are as vines, weak but useful plants; their fruits are as tender crops at first, which must have time to come to maturity. It is therefore no wonder that King Solomon used them in this analogy to represent the things that cause believers to abandon their call or miss out on their blessings.

As believers, we do all we can to overcome sins of commission and omission. Most born-again believers find themselves strengthened enough to overcome sins of commission, but yet still struggle with the sins of omission. Most are however plagued by little foxes, which though little can do great mischief, that hold believers back from reaching our fullest spiritual potential.

For born again believers, our foxes are many, but a few of them are envy, fear, sinful speech, lack of submission to spiritual authority, slothfulness and double mindedness. Persecutors, false prophets and those that sow the tares of heresy or schism, are also foxes, they plague and attack the tender grapes, you and I who are the fruit of our Savior Jesus Christ. The command is to restrain them from doing this mischief and to teach the church to prevent errors and heresies in the beginnings.

Moreso, Luke 10:2-3 says that the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

Some studies of foxes in Australia revealed that around 30% of all lamb deaths are due to fox perdition. Foxes mostly eat sheep (lambs) and rabbits. A post-mortem study on some foxes showed that about 20% of the food items in their stomachs was lambs. The Lord says that He sends us forth as lambs amongst wolves. He knows that we as His lambs who have been sent forth are daily targeted by these little foxes. He knows that as labourers, those little foxes will plague us and try to devour us. They will attack marriages, ministries, relationships, and most importantly, destinies could be affected. When they go looking for whom to prey upon, may they not find you in Jesus' name.

Foxes are good at working alone and have an awesome ability for seeing, smelling and hearing. Even when caught, foxes can outsmart their captors and secure their freedom with ease.

In this month, we will be exploring in greater details some of these foxes that distract, destroy and prevent believers from walking closer with God and attaining their maximum potentials.

It is my earnest prayer that every element of envy, fear, sinful speech, lack of submission to spiritual authority, slothfulness and double mindedness that manifests in your life will be consumed by the Consuming Fire. May you not fall victim to those little foxes in Jesus' name. May the Almighty help us to overcome every hindrance on our path and things that discourage the inclinations to virtue and piety.

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