



Biblical Manhood

Remembering Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Destiny

March/April, 2013

Hunting Foxes

In the previous section, we see the love between Abishag and Solomon blossoming like a vineyard in the springtime, “The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance” (**Song of Solomon 2:13**). It is springtime and the vines are in bloom along with their love. Now, in **Song of Solomon 2:15**, we have a loving admonition to guard this blossoming relationship, “Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that spoil the vineyards, for our vineyards are in blossom.”

Why does Abishag speak about catching “foxes”? Foxes are deadly to vineyards. These pests will nibble the early blossoms from the vine. As a result, no fruit will mature from these blossoms. What had the promise of great fruit is robbed of its fruitfulness. She also makes mention of the “little foxes.” Even the small, young foxes can wreck a vineyard.

This is a call to deal with any obstacles to a blossoming relationship. There are various things, even little things, which can creep in and wreak havoc in a fruitful relationship. There are factors that can cripple a blossoming relationship. For this reason, you must be willing to deal with anything that can hinder and cripple your relationships – with your wife and even with the Lord Jesus Christ. When you truly love someone, you will determine to deal with anything that might hurt and hinder the relationship. In this issue of *Biblical Manhood*, we will examine “catching foxes” – facing and dealing with anything that can hinder your relationships.

Application To Your Marriage

This text speaks to the marriage relationship. It is a call to be vigilant in

guarding the relationship that you have to your wife. One of the dangers in a relationship is taking it for granted – believing that it will exist and grow without vigilance and work. This text warns that things can creep in the relationship to cut off its fruitfulness. “Little foxes” can sneak in, cripple, and hurt the relationship. As a Christian man, you are called to be a watchman for your relationship.

What are some of the little foxes that can creep in and wreak havoc in the relationship? There are various ones:

- Jealousy
- Lack of self-control
- Selfishness
- Mistrust
- Pride
- Unwillingness to forgive

The list could go on and on. It’s important to notice that it doesn’t take major sins to cripple and hurt the marriage. All it takes is yielding to something that is sinful to hurt the relationship. Too many times we are deceived into thinking these lesser things can’t really affect the health and fruitfulness of the marriage. Yet, they can be deadly if not dealt with.

How can a Christian man catch the little foxes that can hurt a fruitful marriage? The following are some suggestions you might consider for your “fox hunting”:

Pray that the love between your wife and you will grow. When you love someone, you will determine to deal with anything that can hinder the relationship. Ask that you will increase in your love for one another – a love willing to go after the “little foxes.”

Ask God to give you discernment concerning those things that can hinder your relationship to your wife. God by His Holy Spirit can enable you to spot those things that can hinder and do damage to your relationship. Plead for spiritual discernment in these matters.

Start with yourself. It’s important to ask the Spirit of God to search your heart and life. It’s very easy to overlook the baggage and the sin in our own lives. We can easily see what is wrong in other peoples’ lives, especially your spouse. Yet, you must ask God for insight into anything in your life that can do damage in your relationship to your wife.

Pray for the grace to confront and deal with those things. It’s not enough just to discern what’s wrong in your life. There also has to be a commitment to pursue godly change. We must seek God for the help of His Spirit to confront and change those areas of our life that can cause harm to relationships.

Plead for the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). In the last suggestion, we saw that we have to confront the issues in our life that are sinful and destructive.

At the same time, we need to pray for the fruit of the Spirit to be cultivated in our lives. When you have a cavity, the dentist drills out the diseased, decayed part. Yet, he doesn't stop there! He puts medicine in the tooth and places a filling in it. On the one hand, we do need to confront the sin in our lives. We need to face the baggage that can hinder our relationships. However, on the other hand, we have to seek God for the production of godly character and holy emotions.

Ask God to help your wife see the sins and issues that can hinder your marriage. Pray that the Holy Spirit will enable her to see anything in her life that might be a hindrance to the relationship. Ask that she might be convicted of any "little foxes" that she might allow into your relationship.

Application To Your Relationship To Christ

This text is also a loving admonition to believers in their relationship to Christ. It is a charge to every believer to suppress his own sinful nature. It is to confront and deal with anything that may seem little in our eyes but can do damage to our relationship to Christ. The Puritan John Owen wrote, "Be killing sin or it will be killing you."

What steps can you take to deal with the little foxes that might hinder your relationship to Christ? I'd ask you to consider the following suggestions.

Pray that your love for Christ will grow. Ask for an increase in your love for Jesus – a love that surpasses any desire for sin that might hinder your relationship to Him.

Ask for a hatred of sin. In this sinful world, it's easy to compromise with sin. It's easy to take a soft stance on sin when surrounded by it continually. Call on God for a hatred of what He hates and sensitivity to it.

Pray daily for the filling of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). The Holy Spirit enables us to know and pursue Christ. The Holy Spirit empowers us to confront and confess sin. For this reason, we need to daily ask Him to fill us and control us.

Remember the damage that "little foxes" can do. The "little" sins can do great damage. They can hinder your fellowship with Jesus Christ. They can cut off your fruitfulness for Jesus Christ. They can strip your testimony of power and effectiveness. Meditate on the power of sin to wreak havoc in your life. Meditate on the love and mercy of Jesus and how good it is to be in relationship to Him.

Guard your heart. Be careful about what you see and what you listen to. The

“little foxes” can creep in when we grow careless in guarding our hearts. Crowd out the evil thoughts with God’s Word.

World Prayer Plan

May

- 1-Hungary-The Lost
- 2-Iceland
- 3-India-The Church
- 4-India-Spiritual Warfare
- 5-India-Mission Efforts
- 6-India-Bible Translation \ Distribution
- 7-India-Massive Conversions
- States of India:
 - 8-Andhra Pradesh; Arunachal Pradesh
 - 9-Assam
 - 10-Bihar; Goa; Gujarat
 - 11-Haryana; Himachal Pradesh
 - 12-Jaamu; Kashmir; Karnatara
 - 13-Kerala; Madhya Pradesh
 - 14-Maharastra
 - 15-Manipur; Meghalaya
 - 16-Mizoram; Nagaland
 - 17-Orissa; Punjab
 - 18-Rajasthan; Sikkim
 - 19-Tamil Nadu; Tripura
 - 20-Uttar Pradesh
 - 21-West Bengal
 - 22-The Seven Union Territories
 - 23-Indonesia-The Church/Revival
 - 24-Indonesia-Government
 - 25-Indonesia-Lost/Mission Efforts
 - 26-Indonesia-Young People
 - 27-Iran-The Church
 - 28-Iran-The Lost
 - 29-Iraq-The Church
 - 30-Iraq-The Lost
 - 31-Ireland

June

- 1-Israel-Mission Efforts

- 2-Israel-Peace
- 3-Italy-The Church
- 4-Italy-The Lost
- 5-Italy-Spiritual Awakening
- 6-Jamaica
- 7-Japan-The Church
- 8-Japan-The Lost
- 9-Johnston Island
- 10-Jordan
- 11-Kazakhstan-The Church
- 12-Kazakhstan-Mission Efforts
- 13-Kenya
- 14-Kiribait
- 15-North Korea-The Church
- 16-North Korea- Open Doors For Gospel
- 17-North Korea-The Lost
- 18-South Korea-The Church
- 19-South Korea-Continued Revival
- 20-Kuwait
- 21-Kyrgystan-The Church
- 22-Kyrgystan-Mission Efforts
- 23-Laos
- 24-Latvia
- 25-Lebanon
- 26-Lesotho
- 27-Liberia
- 28-Libya
- 29-Liechtenstein
- 30-Lithuania

**Dr. Kevin Meador, President
The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc.**

P. O. Box 278,

Hickory, MS 39332

(601) 635-2180

(601) 646-2295

EMAIL:

prayer@prayerclosetministries.org

WEB PAGES:

www.prayerclosetministries.org

www.kingdompraying.com