

Foxes On My Mind... And In My Life?



Caution...

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I recently experienced a unique series of events, with each incident involving a fox. When a pattern like this occurs, 100% of the time the Lord uses the repeated theme to speak something profound through His Word.

This time was no exception.

Here is how things happened:

+ Recently, while having lunch with other moms and **children**, a fox meandered **near** our group. It was **mangy**, scrawny, and **uncomfortably close** to us. Even worse, the animal was itching like crazy. We **cautioned** the **kids** not to play near the area where he had paused to itch, **suspecting** it had **fleas**. Within minutes it was gone, and lunchtime returned to normal.

+ A few days later, I overheard an audio book my **son** was playing. Half-way through the episode, a character in the story referred to "**the burrow of the fox.**"

+ Soon thereafter, during a public speaking class, a **student** presented some **jokes**, including one about...a fox.

+ Days later, **Zachariah** wanted some **special Mom-Son time**, asking to watch a show we'd recorded. Unbeknownst to us, the episode was about Noah's Ark-- and it featured two foxes.

This kept going...

+ When I reconnected with a **child** I hadn't seen for a while, he excitedly shared how his family had **taken time away**, traveling out of state...and had spotted a fox **near their cabin.**

+ I got **lost** driving **Zach** to basketball practice and pulled up the GPS to **get back on track.** The GPS led me to an **unfamiliar road:** Fox Drive.

+ Finally, to complete the circle, I saw the **exact same** fox **again** in the first place I'd seen it while with friends and their **children.**

Do you think the Lord had my **attention?** *Yes indeed.*

As I have learned to do, I **went to His Word** and looked up all Scriptures with the word 'fox.' After a few weeks of prayerful study, one of the verses the Holy Spirit consistently echoed was Song of Solomon 2:15:

**"Catch us the foxes,
the little foxes that spoil the vines,
for our vines have tender grapes."**

The context of this verse is a passionate dialogue and **intimate** interaction between a bride and her groom. They are in the midst of "their garden", and the groom has just finished telling his bride that he longs to have her **come away** with him for a much longed-for **time together.**

Then comes the **warning** to "catch the foxes that spoil the vines." *What does that mean?*

Here are the Hebrew root-word meanings for the words in this verse:

Catch: to grasp, seize, take hold of, take possession

Fox: a burrower, jackal

Little: young, small, insignificant, unimportant

Spoil: to tighten a cord, bind, twist;
to pervert, destroy; corrupt, spoil

Vines: garden, vineyard

Tender grapes: (from one root word, meaning) blossom, abloom

*Do you see the word of **caution**?*

*Do you **hear** the **warning**?*

*Please pay **attention**.*

What foxes are spoiling or threatening to corrupt your life in Christ?

What tricky tactics of the devil, like habits, temptations, thoughts, or attitudes, are "tightening a cord" around your intimacy with Jesus?

Even the seemingly **small**,
insignificant,
unimportant 'foxes'
can **tighten a cord around**,
bind,
twist,
pervert,
destroy,
corrupt, and spoil
the **fruitful blossoms** in your **garden**.

If you **suspect** any fox-- *big or little*-- **catch it! Seize it!**

Take hold of it before it takes hold of you.

How do we do this?

Run to God's Word! Make **special time** to be aware of Jesus. **Come away** with Him for **intimate time together**.

Ask the Holy Spirit to expose any foxes **burrowing** into your life.

We don't pet them-- we remove them.

Set a trap for those foxes, so they don't **spoil** your vines.

One More Observation

Intriguingly, every incident I experienced with foxes involved a **child**.

There is much to ponder on that, but to stay consistent within the scope of this writing, I believe the Lord would want us to **take caution** regarding the devil's prowling around **the children in our lives**.

The devil sends foxes into the midst of **children's gatherings**, and he is crafty. His goal is to lead them astray, and I do not think we're to take that lightly. A **burrower** digs deep around the roots, **breaking up foundations**. Please stay alert, and never be shamed for choosing **caution** in your parenting, grandparenting or guardianship.

If God has given us responsibility over a **child or children**, then included in that responsibility is to defend and protect them from the foxes.

Amen.

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