

Song of Songs 2:15 (tPt) - You must catch the troubling foxes, those sly little foxes that hinder our relationship. For they raid our budding vineyard of love to ruin what I've planted within you. Will you catch them and remove them for me? We will do it together.

Over the past few weeks, I have been studying the Old Testament book called Song of Songs, aka the Song of Solomon, in *The Passion Translation*. The Holy Spirit has revealed entirely new understanding of this book as a picture of the bride of Christ, which is the Church, as a vineyard where the fruit of passionate devotion to Jesus Christ grows within each of us. Symbols abound in this book, one of which is "foxes."

The scripture we just read says, "You must catch the troubling foxes, those sly little foxes that hinder our relationship." What do you suppose foxes represent? We all know the phrase, "sly as a fox," to mean someone that is crafty, cunning, able to get what they want. So if our beloved Bridegroom says we must catch the troubling foxes because they are raiding the fruit in our vineyard, He is telling us to find the compromises in our daily lives that stand in the way of His best for us.

God's word assures us in I Corinthians 6:19 that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. We also know from I Corinthians 2:16 that we have been given the mind of Christ. We read in 2 Timothy 1:7 that He has given us a Spirit of power and love and of a sound mind. So any areas in which we have neglected or compromised our bodies or minds are foxes that hinder our relationship with our Lord.

The good news is that Jesus continually works with us to catch and remove the troubling foxes. Maybe your troubling fox is digging holes of worry, compromising your faith and robbing you of health. Perhaps it is cultivating unforgiveness, which invites bitterness and resentment to poison the fruit in your vineyard. It might be that you are compromising your body through poor eating habits or lack of exercise. Or your foxhole might be depression, addiction, sexual sin, or anything else that compromises the fullness of the presence of Christ in you.

Today, affirm God's word that says, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I have been given the mind of Christ. He has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power and love and of a sound mind. I am loved with an everlasting love, and around me are His everlasting arms. With God, all things are possible." Let Him help you catch those foxes and fill those holes with the fullness of His presence.