



Newsletter
No. 417
July, 2021

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- CATCH THE LITTLE FOXES THAT RUIN THE VINEYARDS (1)
Elder Ze-Yen Kuo

Bible Reading, July
Ezekiel, Joel, 1 Peter, 2 Peter
Daniel, Revelation

Date	Book	Date	Book
1	E 45	17	D 2
2	E 46	18	D 3
3	E 47	19	D 4
4	E 48	20	D 5
5	Joel 1	21	D 6
6	Joel 2	22	D 7
7	Joel 3	23	D 8
8	1P 1	24	D 9
9	1P 2	25	D 10
10	1P 3	26	D 11
11	iP 4	27	D 12
12	1P 5	28	R 1
13	2P 1	29	R 2
14	2P 2	30	R 3
15	2P 3	31	R 4
16	D 1		

Service Schedule

Date	Beg.	End	Web Address	Remark
Tue.	7:30pm	9:00pm	Tjc.us or Cerritos.info@tjc.org	Tel: 562-4448177
Thur.	7:30pm	8:40pm		Tel: 562-4448177
Frl.	7:30pm	9:00pm	Tjc.us	669-9006833, then 710-3477857
Sat.	10:00am	11:30am	Tjc.us	669-9006833 then 710-3477857
	1:30pm	3:00pm	Tjc.us	669-9006833
	10:30am	11:30am	https://zoom.us/j/97893289046	K Class RE
	9:30 am	10:30am	https://zoom.us/j/93203350613	E1 RE
	10:30am	12 Noon	https://zoom.us/j/893156374	E2 RE
	2:00pm	3:30pm	https://zoom.us/j/5629167595	J1 RE
	2:00pm	3:30pm	https://zoom.us/j/99970598371	J2 RE
	3:45pm	5:00pm	Cerritos.info@tjc.org	LHYF
Sun.	10:00am	11:00am	https://zoom.us/j/95751644174	EGFS Bible Study 1st, 3rd Sun, monthly
	2:00pm	3:30pm	https://zoom.us/j/99822942965? True Seeker Class	ID: 998 2294 2965 , Passcode: 1917 Tel 16699006833,

Garden of Prayer

- Pray for those who are affected by COVID -19, may the Lord's mercy, and the protection be with them.
- Various preaching and pastoral work of the church.
- Pray for God to help the church grow in faith, hope, and love.
- Pray for Sister Linda Hsaio and Sister I-Mei Tsai, Pastor Meishi Tsai's wife.

Construction Project Report

- Will get Chapel Using permit in this month
- Chapel Reopening is scheduled on 8/7, the details will be followed soon.
- Not yet donated construction fund Balance 193,597
- Actual project cost will be reported soon
- Pictures : Old Chapel(above), Blueprint (Middle), New Chapel (Below)

USGA 2022 Full-time Minister Training Program Recruitment

- USGA is recruiting 3 students as potential full-time ministers.
- For guidelines and TTP application, please contact your local church council.

Events Calendar, July

- 7/3 RE Prayer
- 7/4—7/7 RE Teachers Seminar Part II
- 7/10 Church Council Meeting
- Church 2nd Major clean up, TBD.

2021 SWR & National Events

Event	Conducted	Date	Registration	Deadline
SWR E2 ESSC	Online	7/12 — 7/16	Contact RE Coordinator	6/6
Scared Music Camp	Online	7/17 — 7/23	Events.tjc.org	6/6
MVP	Online	7/10 — 7/16	Events.tjc.org	6/15
NYTS	Online	7/25 — 8/8	Events.tjc.org	6/30
PMVP	Online	7/25 — 8/8	Events.tjc.org	7/1
National Youth Servitude Training		9/3 — 9/6	Each Church assign 2 youths	



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CATCH THE LITTLE FOXES THAT RUIN THE VINEYARDS (1)

Elder Ze-Yen Kuo

“ Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.” (SoS 2:15)

Preface

This article will detail two main points taken from the above verse: 1) the importance of personal spiritual cultivation (2) the relationship to the development of the Church. The love described in the Song of Songs refers to the relationship between Christ and the Church. The love between Christ and the Church is like an inseparable love between lovers, a perfect match made in the heavens. Throughout the book of the Song of Songs, physical attributes of the beauty of the groom and bride and detailed descriptions of animals and plants are used to portray the truth, goodness and beauty of Christ and the Church. The grapevine refers to the individual believer, while the vineyard refers to the church. The fruit of the vine refers to the moral character that believers and the Church should have. When the Lord Jesus said: “Can grapes be picked from thorns?” , it means that the evil man does not have a good moral character. Therefore, the most noble characteristic of a true Christian and spiritual true Church are morality.

The grapevine must be constantly maintained

If the vine is destroyed, it cannot bear fruit. The vine is weaker than trees, and needs to be constantly pruned in order to bear more fruit (Jn 15:2). Although the believer is born again and primed to bear much fruit, there is sometimes a struggle to do so due to obstacles that can be destructive to our faith. In the above verse, the little fox represents the offender of the vine that can destroy any possibility of the vine bearing fruit. Vines are often overlooked and considered unimportant due to their small size. However, if the vine is not pruned and maintained, then the vine cannot bear more fruit and the whole vineyard may be ruined. The Bible said that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough, just as a little fox can also destroy the whole vineyard.

What is a little fox?

Foxes are hunters that tend to hide in the daytime and come out at night to look for food. Oftentimes, they are a nuisance to farmers who own poultry or produce, especially in Palestine where there are many vineyards. In Aesop's fable, a fox is depicted as a proud animal. When the fox could not reach grapes to eat, it said the grapes were too sour anyway, instead of admitting to defeat.

When Jesus was alive, He said, "The fox has a hole and birds of the air have nests. But the Son of Man has no place to lay his head" (Mt 8:20). The Lord Jesus also described Herod as a fox (Lk 13:31-32), therefore Jews often compare deceitful people to a fox. Because of the fox' s crafty nature, there is an idiom: "the fox uses the tiger' s power."

The Bible says that the serpent is more cunning than any living creatures, because the serpent was first possessed by the devil who used the serpent to deceive Eve to sin (Gen 3:1-2; 2 Cor 11:3). Anything that is cunning is most likely to be possessed by the devil and will become a tool to confuse people. A fox is an animal. It does not deceive people by itself, but if it is possessed by a devil, it becomes a "fox charm" to deceive people. If humans are cunning and deceitful by nature, then Satan will use this to his advantage. Therefore, our spiritual task should start by removing the cunning and

deceitful heart, and be an honest man like Nathanael. The Bible describes Nathanael as a man in whom there is nothing false (Jn 1:47). We can then look forward to be rewarded, chosen by the Lord Jesus, and willingly accept the filling and dwelling of the Holy Spirit, so that our spiritual cultivation can grow. There is an ancient saying: "It's easier to defeat the thief in a mountain than the thief in the heart." In the same way, it' s easier to capture the fox in the field than the fox in the heart.

The lust of the flesh is like a little fox

This invisible little fox' s activity is in the heart of the believer, and the desires of sinful nature is hidden by the body (Gal 5:16). Since believers have already repented and believed in the Lord, were baptized and reborn, and may have received the Holy Spirit, they understand the importance of restraining themselves to not commit great sins. However, the lust of the flesh still exists, making it difficult to crucify the sinful nature with its passions and desires (Gal 5:24).

Due to the movement of many evil desires often inside the body and mind, believers may often think that their only minor fault is not to pay attention or deal with them. For example, the most common bad habits (ie. smoking, drinking, dancing, gambling, watching movies, etc.), are thought to not be big sins, but only a small hobby or source of entertainment, that do not obstruct salvation. Because of this type of thinking, one may continue to let these habits continue. However, these little foxes become increasingly more rampant as they are allowed to continue. Although they will not knock down the vineyard in a short period of time, they wander around the trees, break branches and leaves, and destroy the flowers that are waiting to bear fruit. When it is harvest time, the vines will bear no fruit to pick because it has been destroyed or eaten by the little foxes. Today, this is one reason why believers may lack good behavior in godliness and holiness. If the little foxes are numerous, then the vine may have a few foxes at work, and the suffering will be more serious.

In addition to the above bad habits, the Bible states seven emotions and six desires that are even more vicious, such as jealousy, greed for money, pride, bad temper, and unreasonable appetite and desires. These tend to not be obvious on the outside, but are actually concealed on the inside (Ps 139:24), and wait for the proper moment to act. Only people with a clear spiritual vision can see through sharply. For instance, the greed of Judas Iscariot was long seen by the Lord Jesus. He repeatedly warned the traitor Judas, but Judas did not repent.

Another example is when James and John were resentful because the Samaritans did not welcome Jesus, and asked to call fire down from heaven to destroy them. This kind of evil intention, which was thought to be done with good intention, was revealed by the Lord Jesus who rebuked them saying, "You don't know what your heart is" (Lk 9:52-55). The little foxes are active in a person' s heart, and often without them even knowing. We may find ourselves in James and John' s position, especially when participating in holy work.

There are also proud little foxes who often act as majestic as a tiger. They count on tremendous wealth, power, and the elite status that they have achieved to look down on others. These people, being extremely capable, experienced and respectable, have knowledge above all others and stand high in public favor. Their great achievements that earn them respect may result in a superiority feeling of "fluttering above the trees", thus creating someone who is arrogant in heart and haughty in manner.