

## REFLECTIONS

Thoughts on nature and the Christian faith - 8/13/18

***"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." - Mt. 17:5***



Jo and I have been observing these two fawns from shortly after their birth. They often appear with their mother on our property. Usually they are completely absorbed in exploring anything new in their world or in playing fawn games, the rules of which I cannot comprehend. Their life is part party and part adventure. They seem to live in their own world, oblivious to the possibility of danger. That is, until their mother speaks. Then all eyes and ears are tuned to their mother's instruction. Such was the case when I captured this image. At the slightest sound from mom, ears perked up and eyes turned to receive instruction. The forest is never completely silent - insects buzz, birds sing, squirrels scamper, and leaves rustle. All these peripheral noises seldom bother these fawns, but one soft vocalization from their mother changes everything. Our world is even more chaotic in the voices that vie for our attention. Paying attention to all of this is not only impossible, but unproductive. But for Christians, there is a voice that should always demand our attention. God our Father has told us that it is our duty to always listen to His Son. Whenever Jesus speaks, we must stop and listen. And the primary way in which he speaks is through scripture. Spend time listening to him. Try reading Matthew chapters 5 through 7, and allow each instruction to sink deep into your heart. Allow his words to be a lamp to guide your daily walk. Allow his commandments to both guide you and convict you. Ask the Holy Spirit of God to mold you and conform you to the directions of Jesus. We have been saved for a purpose, and that purpose is to become more like the One who has rescued us from who we are. The Bible calls the process sanctification. You will call it the hardest, yet most freeing thing you will ever do. What, or who, you listen to makes all the difference in the world. - John