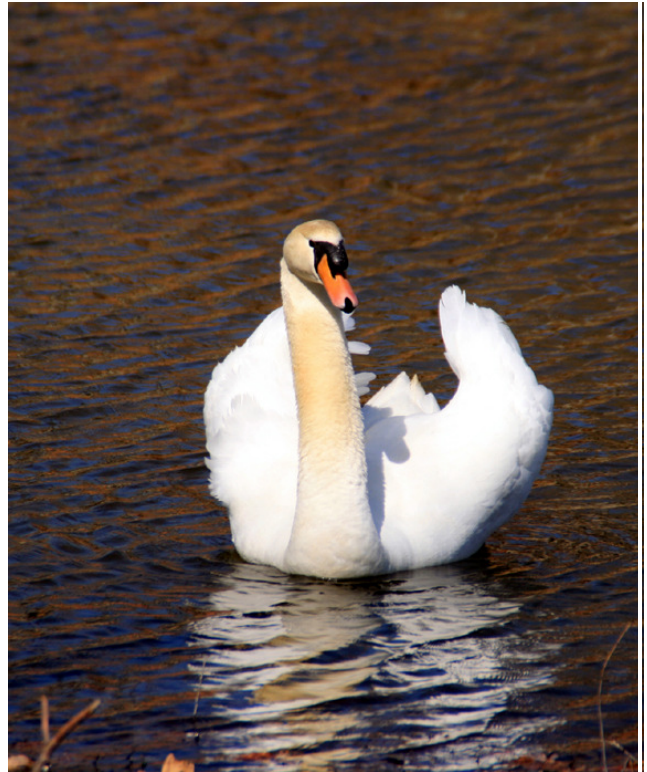


It was such a delightful and sunny day that I decided to go for a walk in the woods near our house. The sun felt good on my face after a long dreary winter. The spring days felt as if they would never come. But finally, here was the picture perfect day. I nearly didn't go, but I decided I would make the time even though I did not feel that I had the time. There was a prompting as if there was something more.

From outside the woods, there seemed to be no evidence of life at all. I just wanted to shut the car door and go back to my business. There was yard work to be done, flowers to plant, and the lawnmower is screaming for my attention. Nonetheless, there is that prompting--so I go. Even the creatures about seemed to be in a celebrative mood as I stepped into the woods. The trees just seemed to come alive with the sounds of God's creatures and the gentle rustling of the spring breeze through the branches. I walked on, and to my amazement I found a big redheaded woodpecker, the swan, a blue jay (who didn't seem too pleased with my presence), and a few cardinals. The swan in the pond literally begged me to photograph her. Suddenly I'm having the best time of my day--maybe the best in many days. And suddenly I realize why I am here.



God wanted my attention, and as always he is so good to show us with life pictures. How many times do we look out of our busy world and see God's realm from a distance and say, "There's just nothing there for me. I know you exist God, but I don't see you, and I don't want to take the time to look for you. I don't see the value in it because I'm trying to look in from my world and it doesn't appear that you are home. Perhaps I should just get back in the car and go about my business." It's sad, but we do this. I found this red fellow in the picture by going in the woods, getting quiet, moving slowly, and listening. Amazing! He's singing! How could I have missed that? It's almost--loud. He's singing so proud. And suddenly, I hear the blue jay and the robins chime in. There goes the woodpecker, "tick, tick, tick, tick!" He's not going to be left out.

God left with me from the woods this day. Because I went into his world, he was so willing to come into my world. Isn't it funny how we expect it to be the other way around?

What to do: Do yourself a great favor. Take the next sunny spring day, and get out to a wonderful park somewhere--alone. No family or friends allowed. Pick a park that is not so popular, and just go experience something different for a change. Leave the world behind and all of its demands and find God in a deeper way. You'll be so glad that you did. Now that you've done this for yourself, go back and get your husband/wife, your child (no matter how old they are) and drag them if you have to and do the same thing with them. Again, no one else is allowed but you two.

Mr 6:31 (NIV) Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

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