Concerning Quiet Time

The three different churches I was raised in were 3 different denominations, but suffice it to say, I grew up in the conservative evangelical church. I went to Christian camp, Christian school, pioneer club, Bible study, home group, youth group, was captain of the Bible quiz team, daughter of the worship leaders, served in every area of ministry, and went on multiple overseas missions trips all before becoming an adult. The way I like to phrase it is that I was pickled in Christian education, and when I say that, I mean Christian nationalism, western theology, the Republican Jesus world view.

Now, my views have shifted quite a bit from some of what I was raised in, and I’ve wrestled with Christian culture vs what God actually says. But! I will share something God has taught me all along, over and over.

Jesus is real, and he is alive. And when he said, “Come to me, (…all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.” [Mat 11:28-30]), he truly meant to come to the real him, into the presence of his living Person.

I think it’s easy to read a book about doctrine or Christian ethics and check “time with Jesus” off my list. I think it’s easy to serve, attend church, and totally immerse myself in Christianity, and yet somehow never actually speak a word to my living God, much less sit at his feet and listen. And actually, I could do this and write about it, teach others, and maybe even become a popular, highly respected leader in the Christian faith.

Don’t get me wrong, I am so grateful for my Christian education, for the words of God rooted deeply in my heart. But also, I know firsthand, how far off track Christians can get when they start to worship an historical Jesus, in place of the living Jesus.

Let this be your reminder today that Jesus is alive! Speak to him. Find a moment of solitude and stillness, and open your heart to the reality of his living presence.

Hear him say to you, as he did to Martha, “You are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one.” [Luke 10:41-42]

Look it up! That “one” thing—the only thing needed—is sitting at his feet and listening to him.