

DAY 1 MIDDAY/EVENING OFFICE

Silence and Stillness before God (1-2 minutes)

Scripture Reading

God called the dry ground “land”...**And God saw that it was good**... Each kind of tree had its own kind of seeds. **God saw that it was good**...God put the lights in the huge space of the sky... to rule over the day and the night...**God saw that it was good**...God created...every kind of living thing...**And God saw that it was good**...God made every kind of wild animal...livestock...every kind of creature that moves along the ground. **And God saw that it was good.**

So God created human beings in his own likeness...God blessed them. He said to them, “Have children...Fill the earth and bring it under your control...God saw everything he had made. **And it was very good.** (Genesis 1:10-31, NIRV)

“Then the Lord God said, “**I see that it is not good for the man to be alone.** I will make the companion he needs, one just right for him.” (Genesis 2:18)

Devotional

We crave to connect. We long to belong. The cry of the human heart is acceptance. All of us want to fit in. This is a God-thing. It is God-ordained. This want of belonging is God-designed. It has been placed in our human DNA by God. You and I were built to bond with others.

In Genesis 1, five times after God creates, the Bible says: “**And God saw that it was good.**” (1:12, 18, 21, 25) In verse 31, the Bible says, “**God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.**” Yet, in the very next chapter, after creating man, we find God saying these words: “...it is not good...” What is not good? “**It is not good for man to be alone.**” (2:18)

What is significant here is at that very moment there is no sin, no disobedience, nothing to mar or hinder man’s relationship to God. **Adam is in a state of perfect intimacy with God.** And yet, that is not enough. Something is amiss. And the very word that God uses to describe Adam at this point is that Adam is “**alone.**” And God says, “**that is not good.**” It is not good for man to be alone. We might call this: “**a theology of NOT alone-ness.**”

Ever heard it said: “**There is a God-shaped void in every human that nothing else, and that no person can fill?**” It’s true. But according to Genesis 1-2, there is apparently a “human-shaped void” that God cannot and will not fill.

There are NO substitutes for the need of human relationship. Not achievement, not books, not busyness, not money, not poetry, not recognition, and surprisingly, not even God himself – can take the place in the heart for human connectedness. And that is why “there is no pain like the pain of loneliness.”

As one writer aptly stated it this way: **“Call it a clan, call it a tribe, call it a network, or call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one. It is not good for man to be alone.”**

Questions

Have you ever experienced loneliness? What other words, synonyms, would you use to describe the feeling of being “all alone”?

Prayer

Ask God to open your heart to His voice and to others that come along in our paths this day.

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