

## DAY 3 MIDDAY/EVENING OFFICE

*Silence and Stillness before God (1-2 minutes)*

### Scripture Reading

And all who believed **were together** and **had all things in common**. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and **distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need**. And day by day, attending the temple **together** and **breaking bread in their homes**, they received their food with glad and **generous hearts**, praising God and **having favor with all the people**. **And the Lord added to their number** day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:44-47, ESV)

### Devotional

Consider the following: “The connection that takes place between a mother and her child is perhaps the clearest picture in our world of what has been called the **“human moment.”** It creates a little circle of life: A mother ceases to think about herself and focuses on her child; she gives love and warmth and blessing and the child receives life. At the same moment, the act of giving doesn't empty the mother; she receives the joy of pouring herself out in service and love, and she, too, is given life. **The human moment reflects a kind of relational ecosystem in which life becomes greater and richer as it flows back and forth from one person to another.**

Even an infant being held knows, with an understanding deeper than words, that what is being expressed with the body is in fact the decision of the soul: to hold another person in one's heart. **I will seek your good; I will share your joy and hurt; we will know a kind of oneness, you and I.** It is the brief enactment of a covenant. It is a promise of self-giving love.” (Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them, pg. 35-36)

Psychologist/author Larry Crabb called this process **“connecting.”** He wrote: “When two people connect, when their beings intersect...something is poured out of one and into the other that **has the power to heal the soul** of its deepest wounds and restore it to health. The one who gives knows the even greater joy of being used to heal. **Something good is in the heart of each of God's children that is more powerful than everything bad.** It's there, waiting to be released, [to] work its magic.”

### Question

Larry Crabb said: **“Connecting is the place where two people connect, [and in that] there is a power to heal the soul.”** What do you think of that?

### Prayer

Thank God for the friends and connections that you have or have had. And, ask God to open your eyes to the needs of those around you – especially to see those who need someone to step into their lives.

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