

# DAY FOUR

## BETTER OUTSIDE THE WALLS PART TWO

### **The Verse // Psalm 127:1**

Unless the Lord builds The House, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

**The Illustration //** Little River Community Church was located just down the street from First Memorial Church. Since they were located on the same street in the same town, the two youth groups from the two churches were often in competition with each other. They participated in the same softball league, the same basketball league, and had become intense rivals. Both churches were always trying to out-do each other.

One Sunday, following a Bible study on serving others, the youth group at Little River Community Church fanned out into the neighborhood and started serving. One group washed cars for people up and down the street. Another group pumped gas for free at a self-service gas station. Another group went to a nursing home to sing songs to the elderly. After the outreaches, all the ministry teams returned to the church for an ending rally.

One of the groups told of how they had gone to serve an older woman who lived close to First Memorial Church. "We mowed her grass, raked leaves, and did yard work for her," said one of the students. "She was real nice. After we were through, she invited us in and prayed for us. Then she said, "You young people from First Memorial Church are always doing such nice things for us old folks."

"Oh no!" Said a member of the church. "She thought you were from First Memorial? I hope you told her we were a part of Little River!"

The student, surprised at the member said, "No, we didn't. We were taught to do what Jesus would do. We decided that Jesus wouldn't care who got the credit."

**The Application //** Say, "If we are going to live better outside the walls of the church and serve people the way Jesus would, then we can't be concerned with who gets the credit. Everything we give and everything we do should be as if we are giving it to, and doing it for, the Lord. This is what it feels like to be what we call 'Life-Giving.' He alone is deserving of all the praise. Our goal should not be to call attention to ourselves but to turn people's attention to God. We want to be people who give life to those around us!"

Ask your family members, if they can think of a time when they shared something of theirs (time, talent, or treasure) with someone who needed help, and no one else knew but God.

**The Quote //** "Everyone that I know who models a high level of excellence has won the battle of the mind, and taken the wrong thoughts captive. It's the wrong thought to always want the credit. It's the wrong thought to give out of a selfish motive. The way to be a life-giver first starts in your mind. A life giver is hoping to plant something, not take something.

Pastor Steven Sexton

Lifegivers : Life-Giving Thoughts

Apr 7, 2017

**Prayer Emphasis //** Take a moment to pray over the outreach ministry of The House. That the right people would come into our path and that as we make Rogers a better city, we would be blessed to do exceedingly and abundantly more.

**The Prayer //** Father, please help us to remember every day that in all we do, we are to honor and bless your name. Help us to be a blessing to others as people who are known for being life-giving and to give you all the credit.