

The Mayonnaise Jar

Priorities in your life are very important. They will determine your every decision you make, the course of your life and ultimately your destiny.

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day is not enough; remember the mayonnaise jar and 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and **empty mayonnaise jar** and started to fill it with **golf balls**. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of **pebbles** and poured it into the jar. He shook the jar lightly.

The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The professor next picked up a box of **sand** and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with an unanimous 'yes.'

The professor then produced two cups of **coffee** from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor, as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents **your life**.

The golf balls are **the important things in your life** - God, family, your health. Things that, if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the **things that matter** like your job, a house, friends and your passions.

The sand is everything else -- The everyday small stuff.

'If you put the sand into the jar first,' he continued, 'there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you.'

Consider your priorities! The rest is only sand. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your spiritual growth and happiness. Play with your children. Make time for God, family, church, medical check ups. There will always still be time for things like removing the trash, dinner parties, or internet surfing.... Take care of the golf balls first -- The things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.'

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. 'I'm glad you asked'. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend.'

Matthew 6:33 *But first be concerned about God's kingdom and his righteousness, and all of these things will be provided for you as well.*