

LESSON TO TAKE TO HEART

WHEN CLASS BEGAN, WORDLESSLY HE PICKED UP A LARGE EMPTY MAYONNAISE JAR AND PROCEEDED TO FILL IT WITH ROCKS RIGHT TO THE TOP, ROCKS ABOUT 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER.

HE THEN ASKED THE STUDENTS IF THE JAR WAS FULL. THEY AGREED THAT IT WAS. SO THE PROFESSOR THEN PICKED UP A BOX OF PEBBLES AND Poured THEM INTO THE JAR. HE SHOOK THE JAR LIGHTLY. THE PEBBLES, OF COURSE, ROLLED INTO THE OPEN AREA BETWEEN THE ROCKS. THE STUDENTS LAUGHED.

HE AGAIN ASKED THE STUDENTS IF THE JAR WAS FULL, AND THEY AGAIN AGREED THAT, YES, IT WAS.

THE PROFESSOR THEN PICKED UP A BOX OF SAND AND Poured IT INTO THE JAR. OF COURSE, THE SAND FILLED UP EVERYTHING ELSE.

NOW, SAID THE PROFESSOR, I WANT YOU TO RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS YOUR LIFE. THE ROCKS ARE THE IMPORTANT THINGS - YOUR FAITH, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR HEALTH, YOUR FRIENDS - ANYTHING THAT IS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU THAT IF IT WERE LOST YOU WOULD BE UTTERLY DESTROYED.

THE PEBBLES ARE THE OTHER THINGS IN LIFE THAT MATTER, BUT ON A SMALLER SCALE, LIKE YOUR JOB, YOUR HOUSE, YOUR CAR, ETC. THE SAND IS EVERYTHING ELSE - THE SMALL STUFF. IF YOU PUT THE SAND OR THE PEBBLES INTO THE JAR FIRST, THERE IS NO ROOM FOR THE THINGS THAT ARE TRULY MORE IMPORTANT.

SO PAY ATTENTION TO THE THINGS THAT ARE CRITICAL IN YOUR LIFE. PLAY WITH YOUR CHILDREN. TAKE YOUR SPOUSE OUT DANCING. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE TIME TO GO TO WORK, CLEAN THE HOUSE, GIVE A DINNER PARTY, AND FIX THE DISPOSAL. TAKE CARE OF THE ROCKS FIRST - THE THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER. SET YOUR PRIORITIES. THE REST IS JUST PEBBLES AND SAND.