



Take Care of the Rocks First

- Author Unknown -

A philosophy professor stood before his class with some items in front of him. When class began, wordlessly he picked up a large empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with rocks that were about 2 inches in diameter. He then asked the students if the jar was full, and they agreed 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 areas between the rocks. The students laughed.

The professor 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 family, your partner, your health, your children – anything that is so important to you that if it were lost, you would be nearly destroyed.

The pebbles are the other things that matter, like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else – the small stuff.

“If you put the sand in the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles or the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all of your energy and time on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take the time to get medical checkups. Take your wife out dancing. There will always be time 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 sand.

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