

PRIORTIES JANUARY 6, 2019

INTRODUCTION

An instructor at a time-management seminar illustration: He used a wide mouth jar, fist sized rocks, gravel, sand and water to illustrate the importance of first things first, or priorities. The quiz question was “what’s the point of the illustration?” One answered “there are always gaps, and if you work at it, you can always fit more in your life.” Wrong answer. “If I hadn’t put the big rocks in first, I would never have gotten them in at all.” Right answer.

PRIORITIES, OR BIG ROCKS

1. Our first priority is God. It’s loving Him, serving Him and following His plan for our lives.
 - A. **MARK 12:30** – We are to love Him with our entire being.
 - B. **EXDOUS 20:1-3** – Nothing is to come before Him.
 - C. **MATTHEW 10:37-38** – No one should come before Him.
 - D. **MATTHEW 6:33** – We are to seek His kingdom and His righteousness.
 - E. **PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13**

2. Our second priority is our spouse.
 - A. **GENESIS 2:18, 21-24** – God didn’t bring forth a game system, football, golf club or fishing pole.
 - B. **EPHESIANS 5:31-33** – The mandate was to leave, cleave, become one.

3. Our third priority is our family – children and aging parents.
 - A. **PSALMS 127:3-5** – Our children belong to God, and He values them.
 - B. **MARK 7:10-13** – Children are responsible to care for their aging parents.
 - **DEUTERONOMY 6:4-7, 20-24** – Our duty is to teach them God’s Word.
 - **EPHESIANS 6:1-4** – Fathers are not to be overbearing.

4. Our fourth priority is our work.
 - A. **EPHESIANS 6:5-9** – Our work ethic.
 - B. **1 TIMOTHY 5:8** – Providing for the family.
 - C. **2 THESSALONIANS 3:10** – Consequences of not working.

5. Our fifth priority is the church.
 - A. **EXODUS 20:8** – Jesus is our Sabbath. Our rest is in Him.
 - B. **HEBREWS 10:23-25** – God instructs us to make His church and the local assembly of believers a priority.
 - C. For some, it may be for financial support and attendance. For others, it may go beyond that. Every church has needs. Teachers, musicians, volunteers, Board Members, hospitality workers, ushers, evangelism workers, administrators, staff workers, prayer warriors, youth, children, nursery ministers and workers, maintenance workers are all needed.
 - D. **1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-21** – We need one another.

6. Our sixth priority is our country.
 - A. **ROMANS 13:1-6 (NIV)** – God ordained.
 - B. **PSALMS 33:12** – A blessed nation.
 - C. **PROVERBS 14:34** – An exalted nation.
 - D. **1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4** – Our responsibility to pray.

CONCLUSION:

These priorities represent the big rocks that need to come first in our lives. If we get caught up in what the gravel, sand and water represent, we won’t have room for the things that are of primary importance.