

Week Fifteen

Priorities

Imagine you are at a time management seminar soaking up tips on how to use your time more effectively. The presenter sets a very large jar on a table in the front of the room, placing all sorts of softball-sized rocks around the jar. "How many of these rocks do you think I can fit into this jar?" he asks the crowd. After guesses ranging from nine to 13, he begins placing them into the jar as the crowd counts. Finally, everyone agrees that 12 rocks fit into the jar and that the jar is full.

Next, the presenter brings a bucket filled with smaller rocks and pours them into the jar. They filter all around the bigger rocks. When he asks the audience if the jar is full, they roar, "No!" because they know what's next. Sand. Then water. Only then does the jar look full.

The question is asked, "What's the point?" Someone answers that there are many nooks and crannies and spaces of time that we are wasting and not using to the fullest. "Nope. That's not the point," comes the response. "The point is this. If the biggest rocks don't go in first, they don't fit in at all."

The big rocks represent the most important things in your life, the *intended priorities*. But all of us have full jars, no matter what size they are. We only have a limited amount of time each day. If the big rocks are seldom in the jar, they are not being acted upon, and are not *actual* priorities.

Is your marriage an *actual* priority? Does it even make it into the jar?

Next week: Ways to make your *intended* priorities into *actual* priorities.