For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Matthew 6:21

What we make room for in our life speaks volumes about what is important to each of us. What do we spend the most time focused upon? What is it that we dream about or worry about? Do we spend a great deal of time and energy thinking about money. Certainly, money is important, but we have all learned money is not nearly as important as our health. Many search the world over for peace only to discover it is as close as bended knee and a worship service.

As we come to terms with our faith it is essential that we understand that faith does not grow without an investment in it. Our knowledge of the Word of God will not increase without an investment in the Word of God. It is a challenge to find time for God. However, the rewards are great and benefits that enter our lives is enormous.

I encourage each of you to make room for God in your life. I know many feel as though their lives are already congested and there is no more room for anything else. I want you to revisit that thought after you have read and reflected on the story in today’s lesson.

There once was a philosophy professor who was giving a lecture. In front of him, he had a big glass jar, a pile of rocks, a bag of small pebbles, a tub of sand and a bottle of water. He started off by filling up the jar with the big rocks and when they reached the rim of the jar, he held it up to the students and asked them if the jar was full. They all agreed, there was no more room to put the rocks in, it was full. “Is it full?” he asked.

He then picked up the bag of small pebbles and poured these in jar. He shook the jar so that the pebbles filled the space around the big rocks. “Is the jar full now?” he asked. The group of students all looked at each other and agreed that the jar was now completely full. “Is it really full?” he asked.

The professor then picked up the tub of sand. He poured the sand in between the pebbles and the rocks and once again he held up the jar to his class and asked if it was full. Once again, the students agreed that the jar was full. “Are you sure it’s full?” he asked.

He finally picked up a bottle of water and tipped the water into the jar until it soaked up all the remaining space in the sand. The students laughed. The professor went on to explain that the jar of rocks, pebbles, sand and water represents everything that is in one’s life. The rocks represent the most important things in your life.

God is our source and our salvation. Everything we have belongs to Him and is a gift from Him. Besides God there is your health and your family. If everything in your life was lost, your life would still have meaning. However, it is important for us to understand that the source of all our meaning comes from our relationship with Jesus Christ who gives value to all we have.

The jar represents your life.

The rocks represent the most important things that have real value – God, your health, your family. Those things that if everything else (the pebbles and the sand) was lost and only they remained, your life

would still have meaning.

The pebbles represent the things in your life that matter, but you could live without. The pebbles are certainly things that give your life meaning (such as your job, house, hobbies and friendships), but they are not critical for you to have a meaningful life. These things often come and go and are not permanent or essential to your overall well-being.

The sand (and water) represent everything else – the small stuff. Material possessions, chores and filler things such as watching television or browsing social media sites. These things don't mean much to your life as a whole and are likely only done to get small tasks accomplished or even to fill time.

The metaphor here is that if you start with putting sand into the jar, you will not have room for rocks or pebbles. This holds true with the things you let into your life. If you spend all of your time on the small and insignificant things, you will run out of room for the things that are actually important.

What is truly important in your life? Our answer can be whatever we choose. The answer will always be the thing you spend the most time doing. Whether it is your hobbies, your work, whatever it might be. Is it the most important thing in your life?

Only what is done for Christ will last. Only what we give to Christ – our time, talent and resources – will transform your life and world. Make sure you put first in your life the things that really matter.