

A COUPLE CUPS OF COFFEE

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

The following article came to me recently and I contended that I should pass it on. It has been slightly edited and a conclusion added.

A professor stood before his **philosophy class** and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and **empty mayonnaise jar** and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that **this jar represents your life.**

The **golf balls** are the important things; your God, your family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favorite passions -- things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The **pebbles** are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car.

The **sand** is everything else -- the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy 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

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your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play another 18 holes of golf. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal." Take care of the golf balls first -- the things that really do count. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired **what the coffee represented**. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."

When times get rough, there is nothing like a good friend. But in order for us to have a friend in time of need - we must seek to develop friendships, even when we do not conscientiously need one.

When a fire breaks out, a hurricane strikes, a flood fills our living room, or an ambulance pulls into our driveway, these are times when we feel the need for a friend, and they are welcomed.

Often I have heard people refer to their neighbors as being almost their enemy. I have made the suggestion that they invite them in for a cup of coffee, dish of ice cream, piece of pie, a slice of pizza, etc. This has happened and their almost enemy has turned into being a great friend. Thus, **someone needs to make the first move**. Would you consider doing this?

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command". (John 15:13,14) Everyone needs many friends. God did not create us to be isolationists or hermits. He made us to be social creatures. We will never be all that we can be until we develop friendships.

Plainly, don't get short changed. Let's be ready to meet our Maker. The Bible (in Acts) teaches that to avoid hell and gain heaven - one must:

- 1) Believe In Jesus As Savior (16:31)
- 2) Repent Of Sins (17:30)
- 3) Confess Christ Audibly (8:37)
- 4) Be Baptized In Water (2:38)
- 5) Live A Christian Life (14:22)
- 6) Be Active In the Church (2:47)

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