

# Talk It Over

I'M ALL IN  
(Week 2)  
Do First Things First

## SMALL TALK

1. What do you like or dislike about being alone?

## VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Mark 1:21-45.** How did Jesus respond to the problem He was faced with? (1:31)
3. What did Jesus plan to do after He was finished praying? (1:38)?

## GETTING PERSONAL

4. How should we follow Jesus' example of praying? What area of need does Jesus' example reveal to you?
5. Jesus knew "why" he was here, do you? (1:38)
6. What important things are getting neglected in your life? What small stuff is getting in the way?
7. Do you have a regular time and place appointment with God? When and where is it for you?

## PRACTICE!

8. Of VVCC's 5 core statements, do any poke you right now? What step will you take this week to move from wherever you are to where God wants you to be?

August 8, 2021

## I'm All In (Week 2) Do First Things First

Looking at a busy day is much like looking at a busy life. How you fill your day is a snapshot of what you do with your whole life.

### Object Lesson

**NEEDED:** Jar, Potatoes, Limes, Rice. A large jar half filled with rice, 1/3 filled with limes, then overflowing with potatoes, stacked up above the mouth of the Jar.

**RICE: Little things** that add up and take a lot of time with very little ROI, very little **Return On Investment** per minute in terms of adding value to our life.

- Screen scrolling
- Entertainment binging
- Texting
- Posting
- And a bunch of other stuff (dump the rest of the Rice)

**LIMES: Larger things** that take a lot of time but with less ROI than we'd like. We know these are important, but these offer less return on investment per minute in terms of adding value to our life.

1. **Eating**
2. **Sleeping**
3. **Exercise**
4. **Leisure**

**POTATOES: Significant things** with the largest potential for ROI (for ourselves and for others) These offer the largest returns on investment per minute in terms of adding value to our life and the lives of others.

1. **Work / school**
2. **Important relationships**, spouse & children & close friends.

3. **God:** Time in God's Word; prayer; worship, etc. (oops this potato doesn't fit).
4. **Making an Eternal Difference/Serving** (doesn't fit)

**Question:** How do we solve the fact that everything does not fit?

**Answer:** Do first things first. I will demonstrate that with the jar in a few minutes. Let's do first things first.

***Matthew 6:33 (CSB)** But seek **first** the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.*

Here Jesus while teaching in a financial context taught, but I believe this truth is universally applicable. Not just to finances but also to time. It is a priority principle. As to time...

- Do first things first, and everything that needs to be done will be done
- Don't do first things first, and important things will be left undone.

Jesus demonstrated this his entire life.

***John 17:4 (CSB)** I have glorified you on the earth by **completing** the work you gave me to do.*

Jesus is well practiced in doing only what his father revealed for him to do. He is experienced in listening to God. He showed us how to live out a reality already described in the Old Testament.

***Isaiah 30:21 (CSB)** and whenever you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear this command behind you: "This is the way. Walk in it."*

Wouldn't you love to experience this kind of personalized guidance? Jesus did. Did you know that God wants this for you?

Then what's the problem? Why don't we experience this as much as we'd like? Sin gets in the way of such guidance. When you read Isaiah 30, you will see that REPENTANCE is the context.

Because Jesus never sinned, he experienced this kind of personalized guidance all the time.

**Here is the good news!** Because of Jesus, **repentance** is possible and we too can experience personalized guidance as we live in that position of complete dependence upon God. Jesus showed us how this works. Here is one example of JESUS showing us HOW.

*Mark 1:35–38 (CSB) Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions searched for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him they said, “Everyone is looking for you.” <sup>38</sup> And he said to them, “Let’s go on to the neighboring villages so that I may preach there too. This is why I have come.”*

The context for this passage was a very busy time of ministry where crowds were urgently clamoring for Jesus’ time and attention. Jesus literally “Seeks God’s Kingdom FIRST,” first in his day, the first priority of his life to seek guidance and ministry fuel. This is what it looks like. (Start over with the jar).

## I **Important matters rarely feel URGENT**

- **Did the disciples think his prayer time was URGENT. No.**
- **But Jesus put this FIRST. [Add Potatoes](#) .**
- Let your purpose set your course, not your feelings. Feelings will follow.

## II **ESCAPE “The Tyranny Of The Urgent”**

### ***THE TYRANNY OF THE URGENT***

by Charles E. Hummel, 1967

(not a book, a 4 page tract, available PDF online)

- Urgent things can rob you of the important things.

- Schedule **IMPORTANT THINGS** (daughter, son)
- Set **NOTIFICATIONS**
- **Practical suggestion:** Turn off all unnecessary notifications on your electronic devices that create a false sense of urgency.
- Then do secondary things.

(NOW add Limes)

Do First Things First.

### III Choose what's **IMPORTANT** over what's **URGENT**

**NOTE: Rice is a filler.** Sometimes neither urgent or important (just a **HABIT**) **Do these insignificant “fillers” last, if at all.** **Add a little Rice.**

Everyone spends 24 hours every day. Time, like money, is limited, and every “Yes” spent in time is a “No” to something else.

**I have a theory about our culture today.** I can't prove it. I have not researched it. It is just my sense. I believe high levels of achievement are dropping to a smaller minority across the nation today. Levels of drive, developed talent, intellectual pursuit, and meaningful relational interchange, is dropping to the degree that screen time is rising! This is not the only problem of course, but a big one, and one we tend to be blind to.

A body filled with junk food struggles to move well.  
A mind filled with junk thoughts struggles to think well.

James Clear (email “3-2-1 Thursday” August 5, 2021)

What other more valuable pursuits might you choose over the high levels of screen time you currently have in your life?

**Exception:** “Devote Daily” when it is Screen Time.

- God causes an unequal supernatural **ROI!** (Return On Investment!)
- Mature believers have practiced and learned that the “tithe” principle works for your TIME, TALENT, and TREASURES. There is an unequal supernatural ROI factor. God causes the remaining 90% to go much further than when you managed 100% apart from him.

**FILL WITH RICE (the right order DOES MORE!)**

Where it didn't all fit before, it all fits now, with room to spare!

Do **FIRST THINGS FIRST**. Jesus did. Imitate him.

Next week: Don't Do Life Alone.