

Things You Didn't Do

Over and over again, you have heard it said: If you love someone, tell them. Now. Even if you just “care” for them. Don’t put it off. Tell them now.

It is a message worth repeating, and it was brought home to me again when I read Leo Buscaglia’s book, *Living, Loving & Learning* (Fawcett Columbine).

In it, the writer, counselor and University of Southern California professor used a poem called “Things You Didn’t Do” to emphasize what can happen if you put things off. The person who sent it to Professor Buscaglia asked to remain anonymous, but some composer should track her down and seek permission to put music to these words:

*Remember the day I borrowed your brand-new car and I dented it?
I thought you’d kill me.
But you didn’t.*

*And remember the time I dragged you to the beach, and you said it would rain,
and it did?
I thought you’d say, “I told you so.”
But you didn’t.*

*Do you remember the time I flirted with all the guys to make you jealous, and you
were?
I thought you’d leave me.
But you didn’t.*

*Do you remember the time I spilled strawberry pie all over your car rug?
I thought you’d hit me.
But you didn’t.*

*And remember the time I forgot to tell you the dance was formal and you showed
up in jeans?
I thought you’d drop me.
But you didn’t.*

*Yes, there were lots of things you didn’t do.
But you put up with me, and you loved me, and you protected me.
There were lots of things I wanted to make up to you when you returned from
Vietnam.
But you didn’t.*

See why it’s important to say it now?

--Beecher Hunter