

Keys to Lasting Change

Huh?

How many Country & Western singers does it take to change a light bulb?

Four. One to change it, one to sing about how heartbroken he is at the loss of the old one, one to sing about how madly in love she is with the new one, and one to go "Yeeeeee-Hawh!" and throw his hat in the air.

How many Californians does it take to change a light bulb?

Six. One to turn the bulb, one for support, and four to relate to the experience.

How many mystery writers does it take to screw in a light bulb?

Two, one to screw it almost all the way in and the other to give it a surprising twist at the end.

How many statisticians does it take to change a light bulb?

One -- plus or minus three

How many Microsoft engineers does it take to change a light bulb?

None. Bill Gates will just redefine Darkness™ as the new industry standard.

How many doctors does it take to screw in a light bulb?

That depends on whether it has health insurance.

How many Accountants does it take to change a light bulb?

What sort of answer did you have in mind?

Hmmm...

Christians are supposed not merely to endure change, nor even to profit by it, but to cause it.

Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878–1969)

Mark 5:25-34

25 A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years,
26 and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had
and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse—
27 after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind Him and touched His cloak.
28 For she thought, "If I just touch His garments, I will get well."
29 Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was
healed of her affliction.
30 Immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had
gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?"
31 And His disciples said to Him, "You see the crowd pressing in on You, and You say,
'Who touched Me?'"
32 And He looked around to see the woman who had done this.
33 But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and

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fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.

34 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction."

1. We can't change on our own

This wasn't a small problem.

She was ashamed.

Look at what she spent (why do we throw money at a problem),
endured (why do we endure the foolishness of the world),
and tried (we will sometimes try anything before we finally go to God).
It had grown worse.

2. Permanent change always starts with a change in thinking

Post-Modernism says, "I feel, I act, then I think."

New Testament teaches, "I think, I act, then my feelings line up with my thinking."
Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the
renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which
is good and acceptable and perfect.

Feelings don't have anything to do with this!!!

She heard about Jesus (someone told her the truth)

The truth (of the word of God) confronts the way we think

3. Being honest with yourself, others, and God

Whatever we cover, God uncovers

Whatever we uncover, God covers

When we look at what this woman did, the bible says she told him the whole truth.

When you are totally honest with God, everything comes out.

In the fall of the year 2000, the entire world watched as Marion Jones attempted what only one person (a man) had ever done. Win 5 Olympic gold medals.

"It's with a great amount of shame that I stand before you and tell you that I have betrayed your trust," Jones said, pausing frequently to regain her composure while her mother stood behind her, a supportive hand on her daughter's shoulder.

"I have been dishonest, and you have the right to be angry with me. I have let (my family) down. I have let my country down, and I have let myself down," she said. "I recognize that by saying I'm deeply sorry, it might not be enough and sufficient to address the pain and hurt that I've caused you.

"Therefore, I want to ask for your forgiveness for my actions, and I hope you can find it in your heart to forgive me."

Revelation leads to a decision to change, leads to conflict, leads to growth.