

The Phone Bill

You married Katie fresh out of college. You were aware of the fact that she had spent about five years (between the 11th grade and her Junior year in college) madly in love with Curt. At that time she was absolutely convinced that she'd end up Mrs. Curtis Mardon.

But, near the end of her Junior year he unceremoniously dumped her and had a quick romance with a girl named Stephanie. They were married within a couple of months. Katie was still hurting when the two of you began to do a lot of things together your last year in college.

For yourself, you never had any doubts. You were really attracted to her. There were times when you weren't sure where she was coming from but you figured it must have been o.k. because when you asked her to marry you she said, "Yes." You knew it was all going to work out eventually.

But marriage wasn't easy. From the beginning you had a nagging suspicion that you were not the great love of her life and never would be. Something just wasn't right.

Curt had become Dr. C.L. Mardon, a successfully practicing clinical psychologist and he lived several thousand miles away in Seattle. Through the years if his name ever came up in any situation Katie assured you that he hadn't meant anything to her "for a long time."

One day life forced you to take a business trip of nearly three weeks. The only contact you had with Katie was when you left her notes, mailed her cards, texted or called her. She never seemed to initiate contact toward you. Even when you came home she didn't seem all that enthused to have you back.

Life was back to "normal" for about two weeks, until that fateful day when you sat down to pay the bills. As you perused the bill you saw that while you were gone

there was a 45-minute phone call to area code 206. You've known a few people through the years who lived in Seattle...

One of your old roommates and his wife.

An older lady that Katie used to work with.

One of your former pastors.

Katie's uncle Richard (whom she was never that closed to)...

You are well aware, of course, that Seattle is the home of a certain Dr. Curtis Mardon.

What is the first thing you are going to do?

CLOSEOUT THOUGHTS: This has so many tangents. If you were to process this in a group the potential answers would run all across the spectrum.

I'll leave it with only one comment... In today's world we have so many more avenues of unfaithfulness than our grandparents knew. I even know of the Senior Pastor of a megachurch who forced all of his associates to sign a covenant that they would completely avoid personal social media. If they wouldn't keep that promise their job was literally at risk.

Why? The staff had researched and found that 70% of the divorces in their congregation in the previous two years had begun through contact in personal social media.

The old maps used to point out to the uncharted oceans and say, "Here are dragons..."