

**START WITH A STORY:****LESSON THEME:** Asbestos, Cancer, and Sin

**INTRODUCTION:** Man was created to have dominion over the earth. A pretty fulfilling task in a pretty perfect world. When God makes creation, He made it GOOD. However, when man sinned, he went from RULER/KING to SERVANT IN BONDAGE. **Romans 8** uses the phrase, *“For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him (adam) who hath subjected the same, in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.”*

What a terrible predicament to be in. As the chief creation, it is in the very fiber of man’s being to desire to rule! But, because of sin, EVERYTHING we create is surrounded and plagued by corruption!



*Asbestos pipe wrap*

Have you ever noticed how every solution and invention we come up with to RULE a problem only creates, yet, more problems?!? Consider Styrofoam! We created it. And now we can’t get rid of it! How many AMAZING health breakthroughs are killing us? Cellphones! The miracle connection device we carry with us ALREADY has studies on the effects of cancer and radio waves constantly being so close to our faces.

Today, let’s look at a beautiful example:

If asbestos is indestructible, how is it made? Where does it come from?

**LESSON:** Turn in your Bible to **Genesis 2**.

**Genesis 2**

16, And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17, But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

**Genesis 3**

2, And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3, But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4, And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5, For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

God said, “in the DAY that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Man says, “One drink isn’t going to kill you. One time isn’t going to hurt you. If the wages of sin is death, how come I’m not dead?!?”

So, how come Adam and Eve didn’t die upon eating the fruit?

**1. WHAT IS ASBESTOS?** - ASBESTOS is actually a silicate ROCK (*There are 7 varieties*) that consist of long, thin fibrous crystals. Each visible fiber is composed of millions of microscopic ‘fibrils’ that are so fragile that they

can be released by simple abrasion of its surface. The ‘potential for fragility’ of these tiny crystal fibers is called ‘Fryability’ in the industrial world. It is mined from out of the ground just like any other rock or metal.

There are two types of asbestos... amphibole (7% of commercial use), and serpentine (93% of commercial use). You may know serpentine asbestos, as it goes by the name of Chrysotile!

Interestingly enough, these ‘crystals’ possess remarkably useful properties. Despite their fragility to touch, they can withstand intense heat and even very powerful chemicals... In fact, while their FORM is certainly destructible, their chemical makeup certainly resists almost any known change! This ‘indestructibility’ becomes both its greatest asset as well as its greatest menace!

**DID YOU KNOW!** Asbestos, while seemingly a recent discovery/invention, actually has quite a **surprising history!**

1. **Egyptians, Greeks, & Romans** used asbestos for wrapping pharaohs! Ever chased by a mummy? Burning him will do you NO GOOD! You need to douse him with alcohol, instead!

– Good advice – NEVER NEVER NEVER use mummy wrappings for toilet paper.

It was also used in lamp wicks, as, when woven into a cloth, the wicks would last MUCH longer.

1. **Middle Ages** found it useful for insulating steel armor from the cold. OBVIOUSLY, there were some drawbacks in the sweaty heat of battle, but options were limited, as were knowledge.
1. It saw its rise of use during the **Industrial Revolution**, insulating boilers, boiler-pipes, steam pipes, and turbines!
1. **In the 1940’s** and the following years, it became the go-to source for insulating, fireproofing, soundproofing, decorating, and strengthening!

Because of its ability to withstand immense heat, it is ideal for use in fireproof insulation, fireman’s gear, and brake pads! It holds up well and protects our heroes as they enter burning buildings to rescue people! In the 1950’s, it was quite popular to even side houses with Masonite... asbestos siding that doubled as an insulator!

Roofing shingles, ceiling and floor tiles, paper products, asbestos cement, clutch, brake, and transmission parts, heat-resistant fabrics, automotive gaskets, electrical resistance, fireproofing... a host of useful purposes!

If your attic or walls are packed with vermiculite... they are packed with asbestos, too! Vinyl flooring often contains asbestos.

**2. WHAT IS MESOTHELIOMA?** – In the 1980’s we made an astounding confirmation of what was suspected in the 60’s... Our beloved miracle crystals were cursed with DEATH!!! Asbestos fibers can be released into the air by the disturbance of asbestos-containing material during normal product use. Demolition crews, remodeling, home maintenance and repair... each time these ‘microscopic fibers’ were disturbed, they would go airborne. And while we traditionally understand that what goes up must come down... they didn’t. And we normally say what goes in must come out... they don’t. WHY NOT?!?

Asbestos particles, once disturbed, can stay air borne for hours upon hours, as **they are soooooo microscopically tiny!** This enhanced ‘suspension’ of particles during normal usage or demolition often means they most certainly will be breathed into the lungs.

Amazingly, God has designed our bodies with several filtration systems. Our skin is our first and foremost defense... however, since asbestos bypasses the skin via the mouth/nose, it travels directly inside into the lungs.

Even here, God has not left us without defense. Our lungs coat these particles in mucus, and white bloodcells immediately go to work attacking these ‘huge’ invaders.

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... However, even as powerful as our immune system can be, it has absolutely zero training to fighting crystal objects. Covered in layers of mucus, these objects cannot be destroyed, nor expelled, and are left there... embedded on the walls of the lungs. And there, the inevitably form scar-tissue... that continues to build and build.

Obviously, with less and less ability to store, process, and use oxygen, the more and more damage it does to the body and brain of the host. And the more scar-tissue grows, unchecked, the more cancer-like our own body becomes.

SO WHY WOULD WE USE SUCH A DANGEROUS INGREDIENT IN PRODUCTS?!?!? WHY DID WE USE IT SO LONG??!

Sadly, because of the microscopic scope of the danger, it was not possible to see its affects on the body until it was too late to do anything about it... 30 years later. It took and often STILL takes 30 years to actually register what happened.

When a person is diagnosed with mesothelioma, there is generally nothing that can be done other than treat symptoms and make the last years on earth as comfortable as can be.

30 years later, asbestos is treated as a highly dangerous health hazard. We now understand its brutal potential for lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis (*progressive non-cancer disease of the lungs*). Agencies, like the EPA, are very strict on the disposal and containment of Asbestos-containing materials.

**3. WHAT’S THE POINT?** – Job pointed out:

#### **Job 4**

8, Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity , and sow wickedness, reap the same.

The Bible never teaches the principle of karma. We do not simply do good or bad and someday it comes back to visit us again. The Bible specifically teaches the law of SOWING AND REAPING.

When you sow, you put a little in the ground, and when you reap, you gather so much more than what you sow.

Jesus likened His Word as unto seed in Matthew. Because God’s Word does not return unto Him void, some 60, some 100 fold... it is a harvest that will return.

Paul warned that if we sow to the flesh, we REAP corruption. A little seed brings forth an abundant harvest! But if we sow to the spirit, we REAP life everlasting! No wonder Jesus pointed out that the faith of a mustard seed was a mighty and powerful thing.

**CONCLUSION** – Adam and Eve did not die the instant they ate the fruit, because that is not what God said would happen. God said they would ‘SURELY’ die.

If we were to read this in the Hebrew, we would read something like: **Genesis 2:17b** “*yom akal Qal mooth Qal mooth Qal.*” That is to say, “day/time eat? Forever die, completely die!” (*And you thought the King James Bible was hard to read! Be glad I didn’t translate it!*) Interestingly the same word ‘**muth** (mooth) is used for SURELY and DIE... **Muth**(mooth) means ‘die.’ But the difference is subtle in the tense of the word each time it is mentioned, as SURELY is **Muth**(mooth) **Qal** (infinitive tense), or rather, ‘INDEFINITELY’ DIE while ‘DIE’ is **muth**(Mooth) **Qal** (complete tense), or rather, ‘COMPLETELY’ DIE.

No, Adam didn’t die the instant he ate of the fruit, for the sin of his disobedience passed upon all men. Adam began to die the DAY he ate of the fruit... infinite death, complete death.

One of the tragedies of mankind is that we confuse the 'incubation period' of sin with inattentiveness, indifference or apathy on the part of God. Yet, whether of grace or of necessity, the consequences of sin are sure and steady.

Never forget, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled! Be sure your sin will find you out.

Scripture says, "Sin, when it is FINISHED, bringeth forth death." Come to God in repentance while you have the opportunity!