

Homework Here I Am

Winter 2025 | Week 5

Message Date 2/9/2025

MY STORY

- 1) If you had to replace one of your fingers with a tiny functional gadget (like a flashlight, mini whisk, or laser pointer), which gadget would you choose and why?
- 2) If you had to invent a completely useless but mildly entertaining superpower, what would it be and how would you use it?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

1 Samuel 2:12-26 (NLT)

¹² Now the sons of Eli were scoundrels who had no respect for the Lord ¹³ or for their duties as priests. Whenever anyone offered a sacrifice, Eli's sons would send over a servant with a three-pronged fork. While the meat of the sacrificed animal was still boiling, ¹⁴ the servant would stick the fork into the pot and demand that whatever it brought up be given to Eli's sons. All the Israelites who came to worship at Shiloh were treated this way. ¹⁵ Sometimes the servant would come even before the animal's fat had been burned on the altar. He would demand raw meat before it had been boiled so that it could be used for roasting.

¹⁶ The man offering the sacrifice might reply, "Take as much as you want, but the fat must be burned first." Then the servant would demand, "No, give it to me now, or I'll take it by force." ¹⁷ So the sin of these young men was very serious in the Lord's sight, for they treated the Lord's offerings with contempt.

¹⁸ But Samuel, though he was only a boy, served the Lord. He wore a linen garment like that of a priest. ¹⁹ Each year his mother made a small coat for him and brought it to him when she came with her husband for the sacrifice. ²⁰ Before they returned home, Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, "May the Lord give you other children to take the place of this one she gave to the Lord." ²¹ And the Lord blessed Hannah, and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord.

²² Now Eli was very old, but he was aware of what his sons were doing to the people of Israel. He knew, for instance, that his sons were seducing the young women who assisted at the entrance of the Tabernacle. ²³ Eli said to them, "I have been hearing reports from all the people about the wicked things you are doing. Why do you keep sinning? ²⁴ You must stop, my sons! The reports I hear among the Lord's people are not good. ²⁵ If someone sins against another person, God can mediate for the guilty party. But if someone sins against the Lord, who can intercede?" But Eli's sons wouldn't listen to their father, for the Lord was already planning to put them to death. ²⁶ Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew taller and grew in favor with the Lord and with the people.

- 4) What does this passage teach us about God's holiness? What were the sons of Eli doing that dishonored God?
- 5) How does Samuel's behavior contrast with that of Eli's sons?
- 6) What did Eli do in response to his son's behavior, and what didn't he do? What was Eli's sons' response to him?
- 7) Are there things in our lives that we know are sacred but that we treat as common? Are there things that we know represent God's holiness, but we treat as less than?
- 8) How can giving be considered a modern-day sacrifice?
- 9) What steps can we take to cultivate a heart like Samuel's rather than like Eli's sons?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Reflection questions for Chair Time. Think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Is there something in your life that God considers holy that you have treated as common?
- 2) How can you cultivate a relationship with God that is more like Samuel?
- 3) Who can you encourage this week? I encourage you to call them and do it.