

# 1 Samuel 10:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul said unto his uncle, He told us plainly that the asses were found. But of the matter of the kingdom, whereof Samuel spake, he told him not.

## Analysis

**And Saul said unto his uncle, He told us plainly that the asses were found. But of the matter of the kingdom, whereof Samuel spake, he told him not.**

Saul's response reveals measured discretion: he shares one truth while withholding another. The phrase 'told us plainly' (higgid higgid) uses emphatic doubling to stress certainty about the donkeys. The matter of the kingdom (davar hammelukah) - literally 'the word/matter of the kingship' - remained unspoken. The narrator's editorial comment ensures readers understand Saul's silence was deliberate, not accidental. This discretion likely reflects obedience to Samuel's implicit guidance and appropriate humility before public confirmation. Saul did not presume upon God's private revelation by announcing himself king. Compare this restraint to his later impulsive actions. Early Saul demonstrated virtues - discretion, humility, patient waiting - that his later self tragically abandoned. The contrast between this self-controlled response and his eventual paranoid tyranny marks one of Scripture's most sobering character trajectories.

## Historical Context

The transition from private anointing to public selection follows ancient Near Eastern patterns where kings were often designated privately before public coronation. Saul's discretion preserved this proper sequence, allowing God's public confirmation through the casting of lots at Mizpah.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How do you maintain humility about God's promises before they are publicly confirmed?
2. What virtues did early Saul display that his later self tragically abandoned?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי לְכוּ הָגִיד הָגִיד  
said And Saul unto his uncle He told He told  
H559 H7586 H413 H1730 H5046 H5046 H0 H3588

לֹא הָגִיד בַּמְלָכָה בְּאָתָן וְתַנְמִצָּא  
were found that the asses But of the matter of the kingdom He told  
H4672 H860 H853 H1697 H4410 H3808 H5046

שְׁמֹואֵל: אָמַר אֲשֶׁר לֹא  
H0 H834 said whereof Samuel  
H559 H8050

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 29:11** (Parallel theme): A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

**1 Samuel 9:20** (Parallel theme): And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house?

**1 Samuel 9:27** (Parallel theme): And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God.

**Judges 14:6** (Parallel theme): And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

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