

# 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

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**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

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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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אָמַר	וְשָׂאֵל	אֶל	דָּוִד וְ	הָגִיד	הָגִיד	לְנוֹ	כִּי
said	And Saul		unto his uncle	He told	He told		
H559	H7586	H413	H1730	H5046	H5046	H0	H3588
וְנִמְצְאוּ	הָאֲתָנֹת וְ	וְאֵת	דָּבָר	הַמְּלוּכָה	לֹא	הָגִיד	
were found	that the asses		But of the matter	of the kingdom		He told	
H4672	H860	H853	H1697	H4410	H3808	H5046	
וְ	אָמַר	וְשָׂאֵל	שְׁמוּאֵל:				
		said	whereof Samuel				
H0	H834	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.