

# 1 Samuel 12:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.

## Analysis

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**And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.**

Israel's unanimous testimony - 'Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us' - provides complete vindication of Samuel's ministry. Their affirmation extends even to rejecting any claim that Samuel took anything 'of any man's hand,' eliminating even the appearance of impropriety. This public exoneration serves multiple purposes: it validates prophetic ministry, establishes standards for the monarchy, and positions Samuel to speak with unquestioned moral authority in the rebuke to follow.

## Historical Context

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Public vindication of departing leaders was important in ancient societies where reputation affected family honor for generations. Samuel's unblemished record contrasted sharply with common experiences of judicial corruption across the ancient Near East.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. What would those who have been under your leadership say about your integrity?
2. How does personal integrity enhance one's ability to speak prophetic truth?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאָמַרְתִּי לְאָמַרְתִּי כִּי עֲשָׂרָה כִּי לֹא כִּי צָוָת כִּי לֹא כִּי לֹא

**And they said** H3808    **Thou hast not defrauded** H6231    **us nor oppressed** H7533    H3808

H559

H3808

H7533

מְאֹמָה: אַתָּה מִתְּנִשְׁאָל

**us neither hast thou taken** H3947    **hand** H3027    **of any man's** H376    **ought** H3972

H3947

H3027

H376

H3972

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