

technical points that I had dealt with briefly but yet very definitely, that are real problems of real importance in connection with the passage. I feel that ^{for} those who are not taking the course, the direct application to our life is perhaps the most important feature. And that's of course a tremendously important feature for everybody. Now this brief passage here has much of both types. There are a number of very definite problems in it. And we want to look at those problems, and there ~~are~~ also are very important lessons for our lives in it, for our pilgrimage journey.

The first problem you note is that he gathered the 70 men and he set them around the congregation, but there remained 2 of the men in the camp. Now how did he set the 70 men around the congregation if there were 2 men -- left in the camp. Does that mean actually there were 72? And he had 70 there and there were 2 left? Or ~~is~~ does it mean that when he said the 70 it means the group of 70. and does not necessarily mean that every one of them was there. You see how easy it is when we take a verse and just try to stretch it and squeeze it and get everything we can out of it. To say he gathered the 70 men and set them round about the tabernacle, then the whole 70 and the precise 70 were there. We have to note in the Scripture ^{very definitely} when it means to give a precise terminology and when it uses general terms. We speak of the earliest OT trans. in Gk. as the LXX, the trans. by the 70. But in that case ~~is~~ according to the tradition it was made by 6 men out of each of the 12 tribes. So in that case it was a group of ~~70~~ 72 (But it is a general term. They call it the trans. of the 70. And they called them the Seventy. We don't want to insist that terms are precise when there is not evidence that God definitely means them to be precise. We believe very thoroughly whatever the Bible teaches but we must not twist the Words or press the words or ^{ee} squeeze the words to have more meaning necessarily than they have. We do not know the exact number. Whatever the 70 means however. these two were certainly included in it. They were 2 of the men that should have been there around the tabernacle. And so immediately the question comes, Why were these two men not there? Why did they not come out to the tabernacle? Why did they stay there? And some commentators have tried to make guesses as to the reason why these men did not come. They thought themselves unworthy to be included among the others?