Sermon

St Luke Year B

21/10/18

Eltham

**Readings**

**Jeremiah 8: 22 - 9: 3 balm in gilead**

**2 Timothy 4: 9-17a Paul denouncing teams and extolling luke**

**Luke 10: 1-9sending out of the 70 and kingdom of God has come near**

+INFSHS

No balm in Gilead- lament of God over people for whom God's healing wasn't enough to keep them from doing evil. Connection between healing and good/close walk with God. Inability to receive healing caused by evil. Causal link between willful evil and inability to receive God's healing - and God’s frustration and grief at that.

Timothy - Paul's finishing his letter these are final comments. Interesting the people he names giving news to Timothy. Not all peachy in Paul's world: betrayal and desertion. Luke has been faithful.

Gospel reading: Jesus sends out the 70. 70 being perfect no, elders, judges appt by Moses. Sent out with a message and power to heal to embody the realm of God. Where the realm of God is there is healing and wholeness and faith. The transaction between those who are sent and those who receive them is one that happens in the context of faith: openness of the people to receive those who set out in faith taking nothing extra for the journey. Our reading ends on a positive note but it goes on to decry those who reject the 70… shake the dust off your feet as you leave Jesus says and it will be worse for that town at the judgement than for Sodom and Gomorrah….destroyed by fire for their distortion of hospitality. Lack of faith… similar to in first reading: inability to accept God's realm and the healing that goes with it.

AGM context. Synod. How open are we to receive God's realm? Healing? Healing services presence and awareness of the Spirit. Both welcoming as well as being sent.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**