

Let's tease out that experience in the chapel of the Cathedral. You will recall that in the scriptures, it is when Jesus sets off boldly to proclaim the Father's love after his Baptism in the Jordan, that he is attacked by the devil. Satan tries to get him off course. You know the rest of the story.

If Jesus himself was tempted by Satan, would it be surprising that he will also attack us – **when we begin to boldly proclaim the good news?**

Fear, sadness are the headlines of how Satan attacks us. That is the reason that Jesus said **"Fear is useless!"** **When evil attacks it knows where our Achilles' heel is, where we are most vulnerable, and he goes for that.**

It is your **giftedness as a lover** that most infuriates the evil one – because it is of God – who **"is love"**. **That is also where you are most vulnerable because you want to be loved in return and to hold on to or possess.**

Now, keep in mind that we all live and work with **"mixed motivation"**. If we wait until our motivation is totally pure we will never do anything. Even in your desire to respond to the Lord's love and to volunteer to work in a foreign country there were also other motives in the mix. For example you probably like adventure – perhaps you like to travel. You like challenges. Not that any of these are bad – they are part of the human package. **And Jesus has shown you that he loves the whole package!**

One further point: **YOU ARE IDENTIFYING LOVING GOD WITH ALL YOUR BEING** to equal **"I MUST REMAIN IN THIS FOREIGN COUNTRY."** That is false. (And notice how fear, sadness return...)

So, the discernment we are about is this: Building on the "track record" of your relationship with Jesus, the question is this: "WHERE DOES HE WANT ME TO CONTINUE TO SERVE HIM NOW – IN THIS FOREIGN COUNTRY - OR BACK IN THE STATES?"