

January 27

Hebrews 4:15 (NLT) This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin

President Trump's pick for Secretary of Defense was General "Mad Dog" Mattis. While that choice did not please everyone in the political arena, it did resonate well with our troops. In his first address to our troops, he started by saying, "It's good to be back, and I'm grateful to serve alongside you as Secretary of Defense." What struck our troops was General Mattis' statement that he would serve alongside the troops. One soldier put it best: Having Mattis as SecDef means that we have a man who leads from the front, who will never ask his subordinates to do something he's not willing to do himself. It means that he understands the nature of conflict and doesn't take war lightly and, after 15 years of war, I think that's exactly the type of person we need: we need a warrior-scholar.

As I read these reports, over and over the troops were most impressed that Gen. Mattis would lead from the front and not from a desk out of harm's way. Those comments made me think of Jesus. He is our King, and He, too, leads from the front. Jesus became fully human so that He could stand with us as we battle in this world. Jesus led the way through every trial and temptation. He went first to show us the way. Even the sufferings could not and would not stop Him. We have a King who "fights" beside us. We serve a King Who is understands us and helps us. Jesus stands alone as the only God Who came in the flesh so that we would know how much He cares for us and how much He loves us. Those troops are excited and thrilled that they have a general who will fight beside them. We, too, should be excited, awed, and grateful that we serve God Who stepped down from heaven to take our hands and walk with us. We can only have that through Jesus.