

Choosing to Love Matthew 5:41, 44, 46-47

- I. Roman soldiers everywhere!
- II. Roman law demands non-citizens carry soldiers' equipment.
- III. Jesus' shocking command, Matthew 5:41.
- IV. "Jesus, do you really expect us to help Roman soldiers?"
- V. "No, I don't expect you to help – I expect you to love," Matthew 5:44
- VI. "But Jesus, you're asking the impossible. We can't choose to love."
- VII. "I never ask the impossible!" I John 5:3.
- VIII. "You can choose to love."
 - A. God's presence fills you with His love.
 1. God is love, I John 4:8, 16; Galatians 5:22.
 2. God's Spirit pours God's love into us, Acts 2:4, 14; Romans 5:5; II Timothy 1:7; Philippians 1:8.
 - B. God's love frees you from enslavement to mere human love.
 1. Human love is enslaved to treatment from others, Matthew 5:46-47.
 2. God's love ignores treatment, John 3:16; Acts 7:59-60; II Timothy 4:16.
 - C. All things are possible to you who believe God's love dwells in you, Mark 9:23; Philippians 4:13; Galatians 4:6.
 1. We release God's indwelling love by deliberately choosing to do so: Love is a choice.
 2. Peter chooses to love a Roman soldier, Acts 10:1, 5, 19-22, 28, 34.

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