

# Brief Interpretative Overview of The Passion According to Matthew

## “Eloquent Matthew”

Expands and edits certain parts of Mark’s Passion emphasizing a certain “eloquence.”

### Major Motifs of The Passion According to Matthew

#### 1. Emmanuel → God with Us

- a. A Title for Jesus throughout Matthew (1:23; 18:20 ; 28:20)
  - i. Title of Emmanuel served Mt’s community well
    1. Temple destroyed in 70 AD.
    2. Jewish people asked where God could be found with Temple gone!
    3. Matthew says → Jesus (Emmanuel = God with us!)
- b. How Passion displays the theme of Emmanuel
  - i. In the Garden of Gethsemane (Subtly at a crucial moment)
    1. Jesus asks disciples to stay with him (26: 38,40)
    2. Disciples abandon Jesus at his crucial hour (26:56) → faith is weak
  - ii. Jesus promises to be with disciples at times of trial (10:16-20, 26-33)
- c. Jesus promises to be with disciples at the end of the ages (28:20)

#### 2. Prophecy and Fulfillment (this theme is heightened in Matthew!)

- a. Fulfillment passages in Infancy Narratives ( 1:22-23; 2:5-6,15,17,23)
- b. Fulfillment passages in passion: 26:31; 27:9-10
- c. Jesus notes the fulfillment → 26:54,56
- d. Passion = divinely ordained role for Jesus to fulfill is slavific ministry (1:21)
- e. Cosmic events affirm this role
  - i. Heavenly star (2:2)
  - ii. Earthquake and resurrection of the saints (27:51-53)

#### 3. Highlights Jesus’ Innocence

- a. Judas
  - i. Only Matthew reports his fate ( 27:3-10)
  - ii. Judas recognizes what he has done → returns \$
  - iii. Neither Judas nor Religious leaders may reclaim their innocence for what they have done → shed innocent blood
  - iv. Judas’ suicide heightens Jesus’ innocence
- b. Pilate wife heightens Jesus’ innocence (27:19)