

# Possible Unifying Theme

From Mary (regarding Matt 26:1–56): The Son of Man willingly endures the bitter agony of betrayal, abandonment, and injustice in order to save wretched sinners and one day fellowship with them in his Father's kingdom, in fulfillment of the Scriptures.

From Alissa (regarding Matt 26:36–56): Jesus submits to God the Father's will over his own, allowing himself to be betrayed, arrested, and deserted so that Scripture could be fulfilled.

From Kim (regarding Matt 16:1-56): In His account of Jesus' words and deeds in the last hours He spent with the Twelve, Matthew reveals the Son of Man's necessary suffering and poignant pain as He nears the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan.

# Possible Aim

From Mary (regarding Matt 26:1–56): Matthew aims to emphasize Jesus's utter sovereignty as he is plotted against, betrayed, arrested, and abandoned by even his closest disciples in order that readers might know the Lord's intentional, sacrificial mercy for wretched, weak sinners like them, and thus trust that this Jesus can save, restore, and glorify even them.

From Alissa (regarding Matt 26:36–56): Matthew aims to show his readers that Jesus, after praying repeatedly to discern the will of the Father, was a willing participant in the fulfillment of Scripture through his betrayal by Judas, his arrest by the mob, and his abandonment by his disciples.

From Kim (regarding Matt 26:1–56): By causing his readers to feel, and therefore acknowledge, the horror, ugliness and sheer compassion involved in Christ's coming death to save His people from the corruption of sin, Matthew aims to push His audience to respond to Jesus with faith and worship for His redemptive plan.

# And Can It Be

And can it be that I should gain  
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
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That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies!  
Who can explore His strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries  
To sound the depths of love Divine!  
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,  
Let angel minds inquire no more.  
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,  
Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above,  
So free, so infinite His grace;  
Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race:  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
For, O my God, it found out me.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
For, O my God, it found out me.

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness Divine,  
Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.  
Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.