

Acts of the Apostles

chapters

- 1 *Stand by Me – God*
- 2a *You Light Up My Life – Pentecost*
- 2b *He's ALIVE – Risen Christ*
- 3 *When Tomorrow Starts without Me – Courage in Grief*
- 4a *Got Friends in Low Places – Peter to Jerusalem*
- 4b *LIAR – Lying to God, Ananias & Saphira*
- 5 *Why God's Wondrous Grace – Apostles & Gamaliel*
- 6-7 *Ballad of Green Beret – Stephen*
- 8 *I Feel Like Travellin' On – Philip & Ethiopian*
- 9a *You Light Up My Life – Blinded Paul Sees*
- 9b *Don't Take the Girl – Tabitha, Gazelle, Risen*
- 10-11 *Long As I Can See the Light – Peter & Corne*

12 *Last Farewell – Peter*

Acts 12:5 & 12
 Church was earnestly
PRAYING to
 God for Peter



Liberation of St. Peter, c. 1620
by Giovanni Lanfranco

Peter's last hour

I wonder ...

May I ask YOU

Quo Vadis –

Where are

YOU going?

SAME as 2016 – refined & with music – *yet mostly same words*



Early Church

	Chapter	Title	Summary
June 2	1	<i>Stand by Me</i>	Gift of Holy Ghost Coming
June 9	2a	<i>You Light Up My Life</i>	Pentecost—Gift of Holy Spirit
June 16	2b	<i>He's ALIVE</i>	1st Sermon Resurrection - Unified, Devoted, Shared
June 23	3	<i>When Tomorrow Starts</i>	Peter Heals Lame – 2nd Sermon Resurrection
June 30	4a	<i>Got Friends in Low Places</i>	Crocodile Bill & Peter to Rulers of Jerusalem
July 7	4b	<i>LIAR – Lying to God</i>	Shaken, Shared - Ananias & Sapphira's Lies
July 14	5	<i>Why God's Wondrous Grace</i>	Apostles Arrested & Gamaliel's Defense
July 21	6-7	<i>Ballad of Green Beret</i>	Stephen—Church's 1st Martyr
July 28	8	<i>I Feel Like Travellin' On</i>	Angel, Phillip, Candace
Aug 4	9a	<i>You Light Up My Life</i>	Paul Blinded, then SEES & Tells ALL
Aug 11	9b	<i>Don't Take the Girl</i>	Peter Heals Aenaes & Raises Tabitha
Aug 18	10-11	<i>Long As I Can See the Light</i>	Peter's Vision—EAT
Aug 25	12	<i>The Last Farewell – Peter</i>	Peter Freed from Prison

Yes, Peter is arrested & put in jail or prison – heavy guard

Yet **Acts 12** is also MORE than just the Angel freeing Peter

This is the last narrative, **LAST REPORT** on Peter – then on

Peter's next 20+ years working for the Lord, we have *nothing*



Our Church



Alternate Title for Lesson

Pray for Your Pastor



Acts 10, Peter in Caesarea

- ✓ Great Vision & Gentile Pentecost
- ✓ Centurion Cornelius baptised

Acts 11, Peter in Jerusalem

- ✓ Tells about Cornelius
- ✓ Tells about Jews & Gentiles united **IN** Christ – **God Cleansed**

Acts 12, Peter Arrested & Freed

Peter Off to Lands Unknown

- ✓ 1 Peter 5 - wrote from “Babylon”
– there was a city in N.T. times
- ✓ To some “Babylon” means Rome
- ✓ **LIKELY** Peter wrote 1 & 2 Peter
sometime *after* Acts 12

Peter never saw Jerusalem again



11:1-18 Peter to Jerusalem, Tells about Gentile Pentecost
and Centurion Cornelius

11:19-30 Antioch—First Called Christians
Persecution in Jerusalem

Chapters 12

12:1-18 Peter's Arrest & Angel-assisted Escape

12:17-19 Herod Has Peter's Guards **KILLED**

12:19-24 Herod to Caesarea, Banquet—God **KILLS** Herod

12:25-26 Paul & Barnabus Return to Antioch from Jerusalem

12:10 – Church earnestly praying
to God for Peter.

Farewell to Peter



12:7-10

Deliverance – Angel awakens Peter ... set free

12:1-4 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them....

Herod kills James, arrests Peter—PLEASED the JEWS

12:5 So Peter was kept in prison,
but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

12:6 The night before Herod was to bring him to trial,
Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains,
and sentries stood guard at the entrance.

Peter is sleeping well

I suppose good dreams



Silversmith Ron Webster penned the words to
Roger Whittaker's most well-known song

The Last Farewell

His biggest hit came in 1975. Story of a 19th century British
soldier who, tomorrow, will leave his unspecified location

'To my land full of rainy skies and gales'

'Though my heart is full of tears at this farewell'

Whitter took requests on a radio & put them music

The Last Farewell submitted by Ron Webster

Webster said it came to him on a dreary, rainy evening

Wishing he was anywhere ... imagined himself a marine sailor
about to embark on voyage home ... leaving loved ones

Roger Whittaker's most famous song, *The Last Farewell*

Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee
c. 1695, Ludolf Backhuysen

In 1976, the BBC aired a documentary *Sailor*
about life aboard a British aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal
chronicling the journey of nearly six months

Theme tune was that of the *The Last Farewell*

Acts 12 – is LAST Farewell for Peter to us

By metaphor, symbol, analogy – imagine then

PETER will leave Antioch & Jerusalem **FOREVER**

There's a ship lies rigged & ready in the harbor

Tomorrow for old England she sails

Far away from your land of endless sunshine

To my land full of rainy skies and gales

In Rome – Peter will board his ship & sail to that celestial shore



Act 13 – Last of Peter – Farewell Peter

We have 1 & 2 Peter ... not sure WHEN he wrote them

Tradition says he STARTED the churches

Antioch and Rome

**Tradition says Peter was crucified
by Nero in Rome – *prior to A.D. 68***

**In the last hour, Peter, bold as ever
refused to be crucified like Christ**

Peter asked to be crucified UPSIDE DOWN

**Acts 13 – LAST of Peter ... I do suspect ... with
the arrest & Peter's "SPIRIT-Driven Boldness"**

**Peter KNEW his life's journey ... KNEW his Savior
Faithful Until Called HOME**

**Michelangelo da Caravaggio
The Crucifixion of Saint Peter, 1601
Cerasi Chapel, Santa Maria del Popolo, Rome.**



Roger Whittaker's most famous song, The Last Farewell

Peter will **NEVER** see his fine Christian brothers & sisters again

And I shall be aboard that ship tomorrow

Though my heart is full of tears at this farewell

For you are beautiful, and I have loved you dearly

More dearly than the spoken word can tell

Peter will **NEVER** see these fine folks again

Maybe he **KNOWS** he never will

Maybe he **KNOWS** his ship to **ROME**

IS a ONEWAY Trip

only just NOT YET



12:3 During Passover, the Festival of Unleavened Bread,
this pleased Jews ... Herod seized Peter.

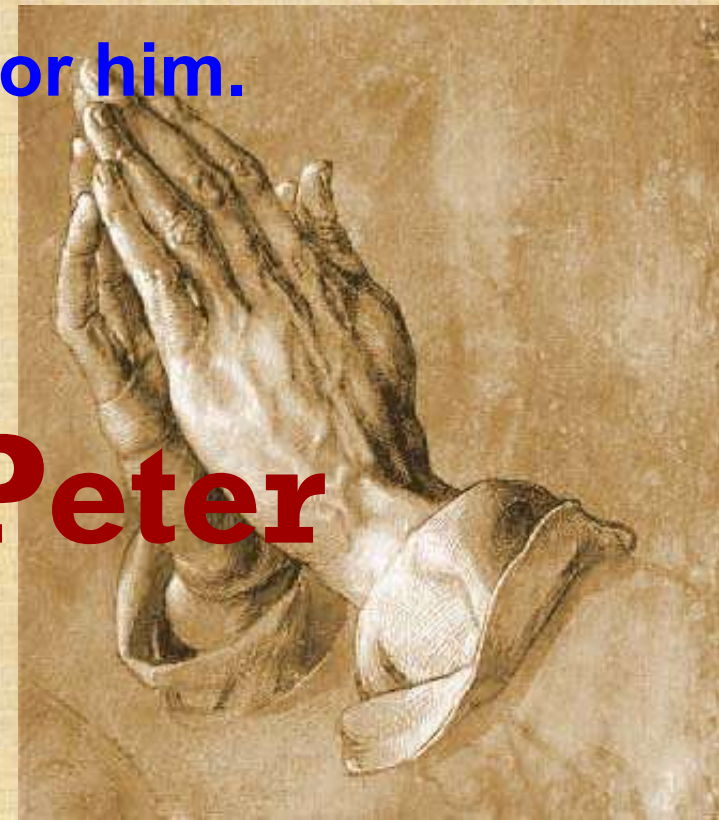
12:4 Herod handed Peter over to be guarded by
four squads of four soldiers each.

Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

12:5 ... Church was earnestly praying to God for him.

while Peter was in prison,
Church was earnestly

Praying to God for Peter



12:7-8 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared &
a light shone in the cell.

He struck Peter on the side & woke him up.

WOKE him up ... goodness ... Peter slept well ...

“Quick, get up!” Angel said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.

Then the angel said to him, “Put on your clothes and sandals.”

And Peter did so.

Angel said, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.”

Peter thinks he’s in a dream

what a good dream it was



We all see what has happened ...
Peter is arrested ... for no reason
Persecution now is to “please the Jews”

Christians are EXPENDABLE

Church PRAYS ... PRAYS hard

We must see ... need to believe that God

God delivered

BECAUSE of Prayer



Roger Whittaker's most famous song, The Last Farewell
PETER is the TIP of the sword, the First Knight
on the Front Lines of the most important WAR

I heard there's a wicked war a-blazing
And the taste of war I know so very well
Even now I see the foreign flag a-raising
Their guns on fire as we sail into Hell

Ohh ... has the War on the Church begun ...
War on the Church continues today ...

But THEN ... how EVIL ...

Peter HATED for Healing & Raising the DEAD
HATED most of all for the Gospel of Jesus



Peter was a high-security prisoner

Peter was in DEMAND

Peter was recognized PASTOR

before the term was used

Peter was on the Jews'

Top Ten Criminal List

Public Enemy #1



so we have to ask ... we **MUST** ask

Are you praying for your pastor?

When was the last time you ...

Prayed **EARNESTLY**

for your pastor?



You KNOW why . . .

Cause the Devil is REAL ...

Pastor Abernathy has a target on his back

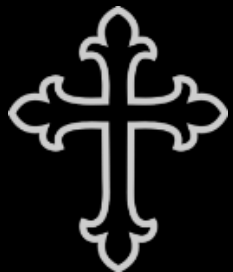
a target on his chest ... on his car

a target on his family

He's FBC's Point Man

God's Called for this Church

Mr. Devil does NOT like it!



Your Pastor is NOT Peter

He has not walked on water

He has not raised the dead ... not yet

Nor does he have Peter's support

Really ... all your pastor has is

YOU!

and sometimes he does not

even have that



If your Pastor is to be protected ... delivered

if, if, IF
Pray for
your
Pastor



Roger Whittaker's most famous song, The Last Farewell

Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee
c. 1695, Ludolf Backhuysen

I have no fear of death, it brings no sorrow
But how bitter will be this *Last Farewell*
For you are beautiful, and I have loved you dearly

We believe Peter had **NO FEAR** of **DEATH**
How **BITTER** still will be The **LAST FAREWELL**
No more sweet widows' casseroles
How will the **CHURCH** fare in Rome without him?
Antioch ... Jerusalem ... ohhh Jerusalem



12:7 suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up.

**Fresco of Saint Peter
Freed from Prison
in Church of San Pietro
Vincoli, Rome**

**Relic in this church is
supposed to be the**

**VERY CHAIN used
to hold St. Peter**



7 . . . Angel struck Peter on the side and woke him up.

“Quick, Get Up!” Angel said

**Chains fell off
Peter’s wrists.**

**Bartolome Esteban Murillo
Liberation of St. Peter, 1667
Hermitage in Russia**



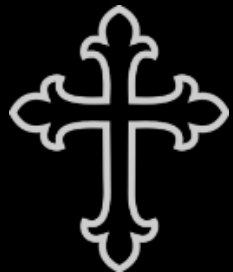
Liberation of St. Peter, 1667
by Bartolome Esteban Murillo
Hermitage in Russia



9 Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision.

Charles Wesley once said :

**“I woke; the dungeon flamed with light.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.”**



Giovanni Lanfranco
Liberation of St. Peter, c. 1620

Liberation of St. Peter, 1620
by Giovanni Lanfranco





Cool Dream

Liberation of St. Peter, c. 1640, by Antonio de Bellis

**⁹ Peter followed him out of the prison,
Peter had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening;
he thought he was seeing a vision.**



If only it was real

Peter likely did NOT say, “See yah later alligator”

NOT “Got to go & get a Subway. Be back in a jiff.”

To the Officers, “Have a good night’s sleep.”

Then ... I suspect ... Peter *might have thought*

“When I wake up tomorrow ... see Herod”

“Well, at least I have made out my ...”



For on the tomorrow ...

I Shall Die

I shall see my Lord ... in heaven

Sweet, Sweet song

though the moment be bitter, painful

I shall face ... whatever ... for Jesus DID TELL Peter



John 21:18-19 Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself.... when old ... someone else will ... lead you where you do not want to go.”

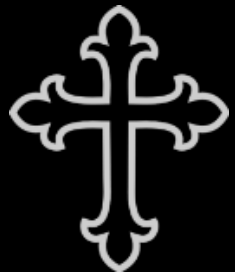
Jesus said this to indicate the kind of DEATH by which Peter would glorify God.

Then Jesus said to Peter, “Follow me!”

10 They passed the first & second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city.

It opened for them by itself they went through it.

When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.



***Peter* by Rubens (1577-1640)**

circa 1611 ... oil, 3.5 × 2.5 ft.

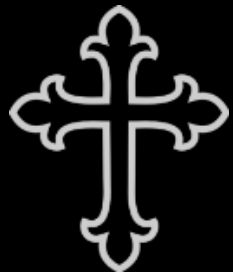
**commissioned by Duke of Lerma
in Museo del Prado, Madrid**

**Peter holds Keys to the Kingdom
of Heaven, Matt. 16:13-19**

RC Ordained A.D. 33 by Christ,

RC claim his papacy ended

A.D.64-68 at hands of Nero



Peter by R
circa 161
commission
in Museo
Peter holds
of Heave
RC Ordaine
RC claim
A.D.64



640)
2.5 ft.
Lerma
adrid
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-19
Christ,
ided
of Ner



**11 Then Peter came to himself and said,
“Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel
and rescued me from Herod’s clutches....”**

**12 When this had dawned on him, he went to the HOUSE of
Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many gathered &
were praying.**

Church Praying

Wood cut of interior of
the house of a Christian
family in Jerusalem
circa 1850





13 Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda [Rose] came to answer the door.

14 She recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

Got to Love Rhoda

**Peter, just escaped from prison,
she FORGETS to open the door**

Probably a Blond

**Some people walk
to a different beat**



**Johann Christoph Weigel
Peter Returns, c. 1695, woodcut**



**15 “You’re out of your mind,”
they told her.**

**When she kept insisting
that it was so, they said,
“It must be his angel.”**

**16 But Peter kept on knocking, and
when they opened the door and
saw him, they were astonished**



**Johann Christoph Weigel
Peter Returns, c. 1695, woodcut**



17 Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison.

“Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this,” he said, then Peter left for another place.



- ✓ **Left—yes, to save *THEIR* lives**
- ✓ **“Another Place”**
 - no one knows
- ✓ **Leadership First Church Jerusalem seems to pass to James**
- ✓ **Paul Gal. 2:9, said, “James, Cephas (Peter), and John, who seemed to be pillars”**
- ✓ **Acts 12-13 First Church of Antioch *HELPS* First Church Jerusalem**

18 In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter.

19 After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed.

Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.



**Ancient
Caesarea**

In Caesarea, 12:21-23 ... Herod [Agrippa] addresses people they shout, “This is the VOICE OF A GOD, not a man.” Immediately, because Herod did NOT give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

Date Stamp: **Death of Herod A.D. 44** – Peter has 20-24 more years

Peter is killed by Nero
before A.D. 68
between 64-68

i.e., all of Paul’s journey
in Acts 13-28 ...

Peter is travelling too
so much missing



**Ancient
Caesarea**



After 1st church council in Jerusalem in Acts 15 in 15:30 several sent to Antioch Nothing – No News on Peter

Antioch
founded by Alexander's General Seleucus named his after his son

Jerusalem

Syrian Antioch

Tarsus

Syrian Antioch

Damascus

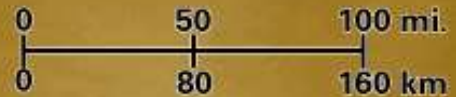
Jerusalem

Euphrates

Orontes

Jordan River

M e



That was all the Bible said

yet much more *follows* Peter

He was THE MAN who walked on water & raised dead

Church Historians ask

“*Quo Vadis*” – “Where are you going?”



Remember Lesson 5, July 14 – Peter’s Courage

Acts 28, Paul goes Rome –AD 63-64 Nero burns Rome for all we know, Peter is in Rome too ...

Quo Vadis, 1951 MGM film from classic 1896 novel

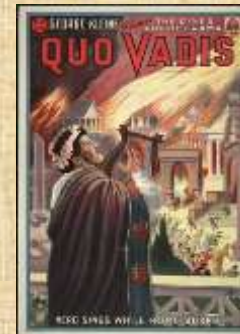
Roman Marcus Vinicius falls for Lygia, a Christian, he tries to save her from Nero’s increasing insanity.

“*Quo Vadis*” – **“Where are you going?”** refers to tradition of St Peter from the apocryphal book, ***Acts of Peter***, where Peter flees Rome & meets Jesus.

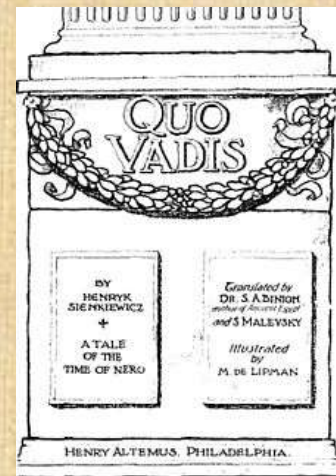
Church of Domine Quo Vadis in Rome claims to be built on place where Peter met Jesus ... *so they say*



Poster for 1924 Italian silent movie, *Quo Vadis*



cover of 1896 novel, *Quo Vadis*



The Story is Peter flees Rome, meets the risen Jesus & asks Jesus, “*Quo vadis?*” Jesus replies, “*Romam eo iterum crucifigi*”—

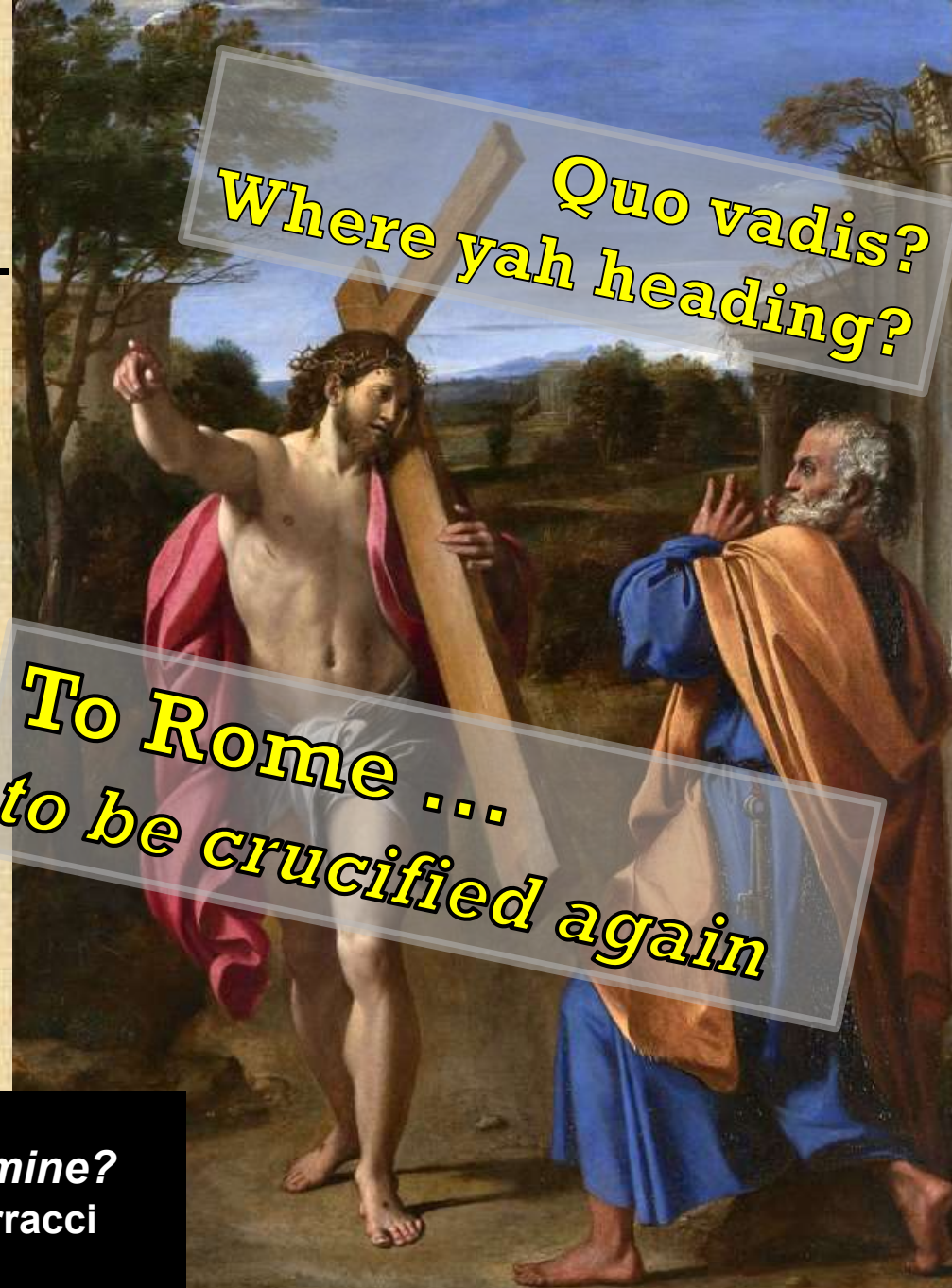
“I am going to Rome to be crucified again”

Peter then returns to Rome ... to face more persecution

**Unworthy to be crucified as his Lord
Peter asked to be crucified
upside-down.**



Peter "Quo vadis" Domine?
c. 1602, by Annibale Carracci



Look at this Renaissance
Masterpiece still in Rome

Clement of Rome – c. AD 80–98, says of
Peter's martyrdom, “Let us take the noble
examples of our own generation.

“Through jealousy and envy the greatest and
most just pillars of the Church were
persecuted, and came even unto death. ...

Peter ... endured not one or two but many
labors, and at last, having delivered his
testimony, departed unto the place of glory
due to him.”



The Crucifixion of Saint Peter, 1601
by Michelangelo da Caravaggio
Cerasi Chapel, Santa Maria del Popolo, Rome.



Tertullian (AD 155-220) wrote *Prescription Against Heretics*, said Peter endured a passion like his Lord's. In *Scorpiace 15*, Tertullian speaks of Peter's crucifixion:

“The budding faith Nero first made bloody in Rome. There Peter was girded by another, since he was bound to the cross.”

Origen (AD 185-254) quoted in **Eusebius'** (AD 260-339) *Ecclesiastical History*

“Peter was crucified at Rome with his head downwards, as he himself had desired to suffer.”



The Crucifixion of Saint Peter, 1601
by Michelangelo da Caravaggio
Cerasi Chapel, Santa Maria del Popolo, Rome.



Bishop Peter of Alexandria, died c. A.D. 311, wrote an epistle *Penance*,

“Peter, the first of the apostles, having been often apprehended, and thrown into prison, and treated with ignominy, was last of all crucified at Rome.”



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Peter ...

faithful to the end



Roger Whittaker's most famous song, The Last Farewell

Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee
c. 1695, Ludolf Backhuysen

**Though death and darkness gather all about me
And my ship be torn apart upon the seas
I shall smell again the fragrance of these islands
In the heaving waves that brought me once to thee**

And so the end must come ...

Peter knows this ...

Jesus told him ...



Peter's last hour

How do you suppose he faced it?

I wonder if he reflected on the Sea of Galilee and walking on water?

Walking on Water
by Ivan Aivazovsky (1888)

Giorgio Vasari
Garden of Gethsemane
1570





Peter's last hour

How do you suppose he faced it?

I wonder if he reflected on the Sea of Galilee and walking on water?

I wonder if Gethsemane and Jesus' prayers that fateful night came to ...



Giorgio Vasari
Garden of Gethsemane
1570



Peter's last hour

KNOW Peter thought of The Cross

Ananias and Sapphira ?

What of the Demons cast OUT?

What of the MANY Healed?

**I wonder if he thought of the
widows' Tabitha, their Gazelle**



Peter's last hour

How do you suppose he faced it?

I wonder if . . . No, No, No . . .

Now he knew . . .

Peter **KNEW** this was

finis

The End



Peter's last hour

How do you suppose he faced it?

I wonder WHO was there WITH
him in Rome as the nails
went into his hand ??

I wonder if anyone was

PRAYING

for him to be strong?

I wonder ...



Peter's last hour

I wonder ...

**Could Peter in his *Last Farewell*
have *said or sung* to his dear
Christian brothers and sisters:**

**For you are beautiful, and
I have loved you dearly
More dearly than the
spoken word can tell**



Peter's last hour

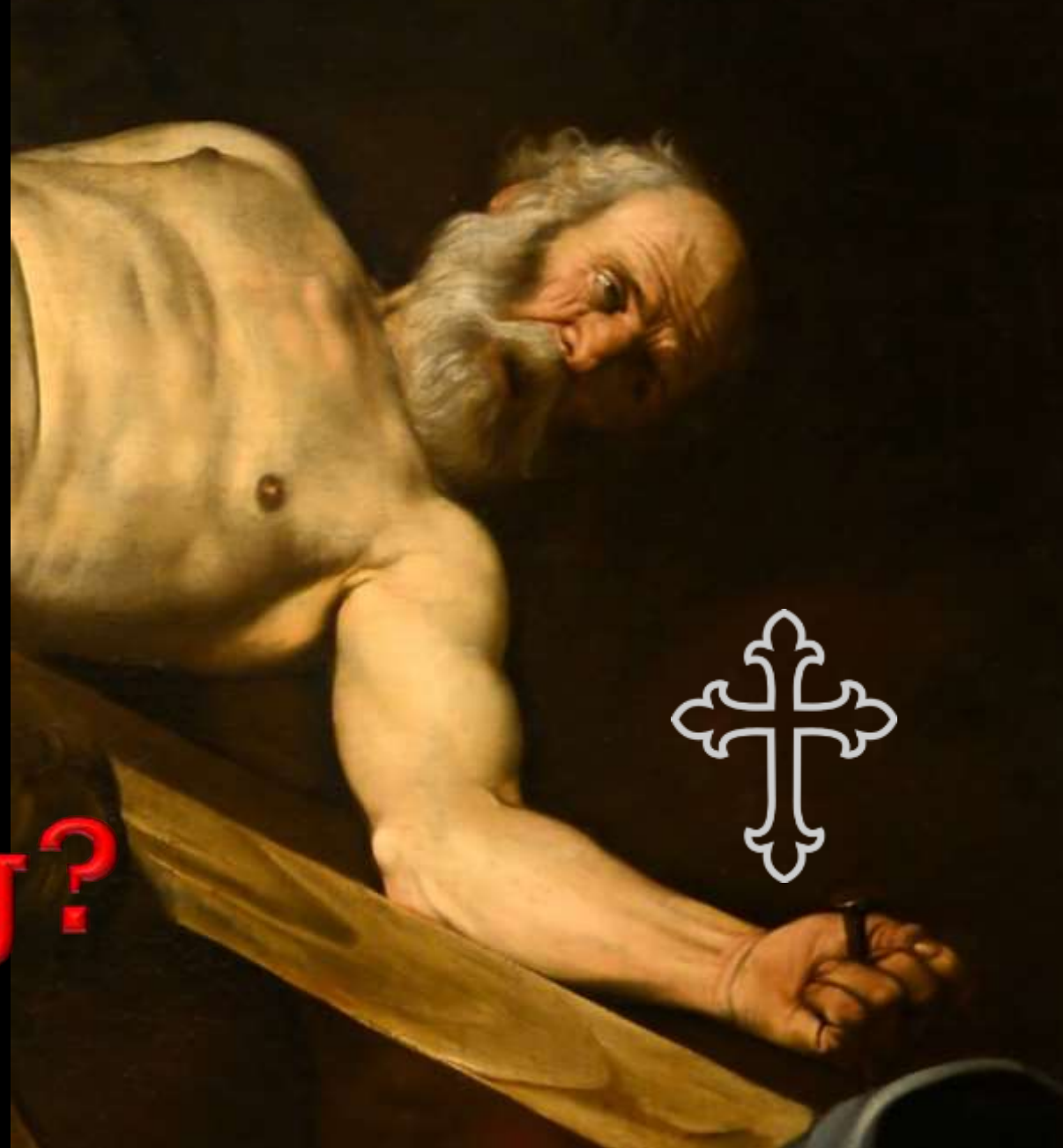
I wonder ...

May I ask YOU

***Quo Vadis* –**

Where are

YOU going?





*May we be WITH and
PRAY for our Pastor*