Bishop Barron calls Peter and Paul two indispensable men, the ones without whom the church never would have emerged and survived. In telling each man's story, Bishop Barron shows how the Holy Spirit worked through all the apostles and disciples to build the Church.

Following the trail of these apostles as they took the Gospel to the ends of the earth, Bishop Barron presents the foundations of the apostolic faith, particularly the revelation of Christ's resurrection from the dead.

OUTLINE

I. Unique and United
   A. Principal archetypes for disciples of Christ
   B. Peter = kingly, leadership, governing
   C. Paul = prophetic, missionary, teacher
   D. United in apostleship and devotion to the Lord

II. Peter of Capharnaum
   A. A fisherman and businessman; married; middle-class
   B. Blustery, direct, strong-willed, but loyal
   C. Name appears 191 times in the New Testament
      i. Named first on lists of apostles
      ii. Only apostle to be given a new name by Christ
      iii. Exhorted by Jesus to strengthen his brethren
   D. Transfiguration and Transformation
      i. The prophecy and promise of the Cross
      ii. Transfiguration: fullness of divine presences actions glory
      iii. Peter's three-fold denial: from light to darkness
      iv. Christ's three-fold affirmation of love and duty
   E. The Call and the Confession
      i. "Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men."
      ii. Caesarea Philippi
         a) Old Testament background (1 Kings. 4; Isa. 22)
         b) Physical setting: site of pagan worship
         c) Two questions (Matthew 16:13, 15)
         d) Simon is renamed Petros/Kepha ("Rock")
         e) Appointed prime minister; given keys to the kingdom
   F. Peter: Apostle and Witness
      i. Witness to the Resurrection of Christ
      ii. Witness to the Gospel
      iii. Martyred in Rome (c. A.D. 65)

III. Paul of Tarsus
   A. Devout Jew with perfect resume (Phil. 3:4-7)
   B. Youth and education
      i. Born in Tarsus (southeastern Turkey)
      ii. A Roman citizen
      iii. Comfortable with Roman, Hellenistic, Jewish cultures
      iv. Classical education; foremost a student of Hebrew Scriptures
      v. Student of Rabbi Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)
vi. A brilliant, intense zealot
vii. Persecutor of the Church, first Christians (Acts 8:1)

C. Conversion and Mission
i. Road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-6; 22:4-11; 26:12-18)
ii. Baptized, preaching, studying
iii. Missionary journeys
iv. Letters
v. Martyred in Rome (c. A.D. 67)

D. Paul's Theology of Resurrection
i. Truth of Christ's Resurrection: A central theme in Paul's writings
ii. The Resurrection fulfilled God's plans/promises for Israel
iii. Those buried in baptism will rise again (Rom. 6:1-9)

E. Participation in Christ
i. "In Christ": appears often in Paul's writings
ii. The New Covenant is entrance into God's divine life
iii. The heart of the covenantal gift is the Eucharist
iv. Koinania = mystical communion, fellowship
v. Justification = made right with God by grace, through Christ
vi. Through faith we are grafted into the power of Christ
vii. Conformed and transformed by love

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:
1. Think about who Peter was: where he came from, his background, his weaknesses and strengths. What does Jesus' call to Peter tell you about his call to you? To anyone? What does Jesus ask of those he invites to be his friends and disciples?

2. Paul says that with faith in Jesus and his Resurrection, sin and death no longer have power over us. Think about how that happens in your life. What kinds of things have power over you? How could drawing closer to Jesus give those things less power?