

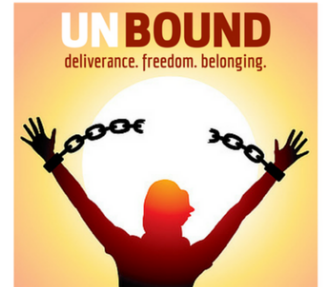
## HOMILY REFLECTION GUIDE

### WEEK 2 of 5

### Preaching Series: **Unbound — Freedom in Christ** Second Sunday of Lent: **God's Dream for You**

#### The Five Keys of Unbound Ministry

1. **Repentance and Faith** – acknowledging our sinfulness and need for Jesus' forgiveness and help;
2. **Forgiveness** of ourselves and others;
3. **Renunciation** of any evil influence in our lives;
4. **Authority**—taking the Authority we have in Jesus to overcome evil and break its power in our lives;
5. **The Father's Blessing** — receiving the love and affirmation God wants to give us as his beloved children.



#### Main Points of Today's Homily

- The most powerful force in the universe is love because God is love. God's love is the power through which Jesus holds the universe together (see the quote from Colossians on page 4). **God's dream for you is to be transformed by this powerful love.**
- In today's Gospel Jesus is transfigured. God similarly wants to transfigure or transform all of us by his love so that his power and glory radiate in us and through us just like they radiated through Jesus.
- One of the ways God can transform us is through the Five Keys of the Unbound Ministry model. These Five Keys are five biblical and theological truths that can help us understand, accept and live our destiny as God's beloved children, our destiny of being transformed by God's love.
- **The First Key of Repentance and Faith** means coming before God in humility expressing sorrow for our sins, admitting that we are sinners and surrendering ourselves in faith to Jesus.
- In the **Second Key of Forgiveness** we sincerely have to try to forgive ourselves and others for the harm they have done us.
- **The Third Key is Renunciation** of all the lies of the devil and all the ways we have allowed him to influence our lives.
- **The Fourth Key, Authority**, is taking the authority we have in Jesus and decisively breaking the devil's power and influence in our lives.
- **The Fifth Key, the Father's Blessing**, is the transforming love and affirmation God wants to give us as his beloved children.

- The Father’s Blessing is the focus today because it gives us a vision of what God ultimately wants for us: to be transformed by his love. This transformation is not instantaneous; rather, it is a process that lasts our whole life from our baptism to receiving the other sacraments, through prayer, Scripture, gathering with the community at Mass, serving others and all the ways we allow God’s love into our hearts.
- However, in spite of our efforts we can still find ourselves stuck, burdened and bound by our own mistakes or by the hurtful things we have experienced from others. And, there can be areas in our lives that we have not completely surrendered to the Lord and/or wounds that have not been healed. **Our transformation can only proceed to the extent we have given ourselves over to God.**
- This is where Unbound Ministry can help us: by removing barriers to God’s love in our lives and by helping us receive the healing we need from wounds we carry.
- So, during coming weeks, I will speak about the other keys in more detail beginning next week with the First Key of Repentance & Faith. I will invite you to apply the first four keys to your lives so that you can eventually experience the Fifth Key of the Father’s blessing – the freedom, power, love, joy and peace – that God wants to give us so that we, like Jesus, will be transfigured and transformed.

#### Prayer at the End of the Homily

(from Neal Lozano’s book “Unbound: A Practical Guide to Deliverance, p. 120):

“My Father, thank You for sending Jesus and showing me the way home to You. Help me to open myself to You. Please bless my life. As I identify with Christ, I can hear Your words spoken over me: “You are my child, whom I love: with you I am well pleased.” In Christ I receive this blessing— and every spiritual blessing You have for me. Thank You, Father, for knitting me together in my mother’s womb, for calling me by name and for having a special plan for my future. Your works are wonderful!”

#### Key Scriptures This Week

##### **Colossians 1:15-17**

“[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, **and in him all things hold together**” (*emphasis added*)

##### **1 John 4:8, 16**

Whoever is without love does not know God, for **God is love**... We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. **God is love**, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him (*emphasis added*)

##### **Matthew 17:5**

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased...

##### **Isaiah 43: 4**

...you are precious in my eyes and honored, and I love you...

**Isaiah 49: 15-16**

Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have engraved you...

**Numbers 6: 24-26**

The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!

**Romans 12:2**

Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

**Questions to Think About**

1. What would you most like to hear God say to you?
2. Can you imagine God saying to you: “[Your name], you are my beloved son/daughter; with you I am well pleased” or the words of Isaiah 43:4 or Isaiah 49: 15-16 quoted above? Why or why not?
3. In what ways has Satan lied to you about your identity as a beloved child of God?
4. Are there burdens of guilt or hurt that you are carrying in your heart? Are there areas of your life you have not yet surrendered to Jesus?
5. Do you have a sense of identity, purpose and destiny in your life or do you struggle with these? Can you see how surrendering your life to God can help you understand, accept and live these?
6. How can you be an instrument of God’s blessing to others?

**Recommended Resources**

- Book: **Unbound: A Practical Guide to Deliverance**, for more information about today’s homily, read Chapter 7.
- Neal and Janet Lozano’s website: [www.heartofthefather.com/](http://www.heartofthefather.com/)
- YouTube video: **Introduction to Unbound and the Power of the Gospel:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=9owV8QsOIn4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9owV8QsOIn4)

**Testimonies from Those Who  
Have Experienced Unbound Ministry**

- “I’ve been freed from anxiety, depression, and panic attacks.”
- “To feel loved and not judged was life-changing. I learned I can trust people and was freed from the lie that I can’t.”
- Over the years I had many traumas that left me with no identity. Through the healing ministry...I was restored to full life...All of the cords of abuse were severed, and I am left completely free.”

**For more testimonies go to:**

[www.heartofthefather.com/prayer/testimonies](http://www.heartofthefather.com/prayer/testimonies).