

THE CHALLENGES OF DISCIPLESHIP
THE SECRET TO A FRUITFUL DISCIPLESHIP
FR. JERRY ORBOS, SPEAKER

We follow the Lord because we aspire to go to heaven and be with Him. How can we make this happen? There are three simple things to do:

1. **KEEP** His commandments.
2. **DETACH** from the world or worldly possessions. “Sell what you have and give to the poor.”
3. **FOLLOW** Jesus as His disciples. “Come, follow me.”

Discipleship must be deeply rooted – in love and friendship. The heart of discipleship is the “heart”. It is a personal relationship with the Lord. He is the Master, and we are the missionaries. We do the things we do because we want to do it for Him. It is a feeling of love that we must always have to keep His commandments.

Discipleship is focusing on the Lord. Detaching and letting go of worldly things and worldly desires. Allowing Him “to **LORD**” over us and not to concentrate on the **load** and burdens of the world. What do you have in your bag? Are they things of the Lord such as compassion, kindness, and love, or is it things that will hamper your journey to God such as popularity, pride, fame, and wealth? Look in your closets – what are they for and for whom?

The grace of a disciple is letting go of burdens, hurts, and pains.

The challenges to discipleship are **over thinking**, **over hurting**, and **over fighting**. Do not let intellectual pride get the better of you. Always ask for forgiveness. Give a piece of your heart, rather than the mind. It is better to be kind than to be right. Practice the grace of humility.

Let us make our lives an atonement for the sins of the world. Being one with God (AT ONE MENT). Caring and sharing makes us one with the people around us. Our life is “de lata”, a can – nothing in and nothing out. What we need is “abrelata”, a can opener, so that we can live a life of quality (vida de calidad) with love overflowing (vida de caridad).

Life is a mission and a vocation. Live for someone or something greater than yourself. Go the extra mile – that’s where grace abounds.

What are the challenges to a fruitful discipleship? The first challenge is **oneself**. John 15 speaks of the vine and the branches. The branch cannot bear fruit by itself. Hence, we rely on God all the time. The second is **humility**. As a young boy and even up to now at age 68, Fr. Orbos carries a handkerchief and a rosary in his pocket. He likens the handkerchief to a virtue of humility – hidden but has many uses. The third challenge is being **joyful**. Choose to be happy. Think and talk uplifting words. Be more appreciative. Fourth challenge is **stop blaming people or situations**. Fifth, **being kind**.

Fr. Orbos related a “chopstick” analogy on relationships. God being the “superglue”. The two sticks must be adjusted right to work. You cannot hold both sticks tightly, one stick must be handled loosely so it moves. Both sticks must be adjusted in a comfortable position to work. The same is true of relationships. Believe, trust and surrender.