Service & Stewardship

**Reading - Luke 16:1-9**

What you are is God's gift to you. What you make of yourself is your gift to God. ***(Ephesians 5:15-16) See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, {16} redeeming the time, because the days are evil..***

***(1 Timothy 4:14-15) Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you….{15} Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.***

***(Proverbs 3:9) Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;***

***(2 Corinthians 9:10-11) Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, {11} while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.***

***(1 Timothy 6:10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.***

***(Hebrews 13:5) Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."***

**i. conduct without covetousness**

Sometimes it is difficult to work for someone without seeing what he has as yours. ***(Luke 16:14-15) Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. (15) And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.***

***(Matthew 19:3-9) The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?" {4} And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' {5} "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? {6} "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." {7} They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?" {8} He said to them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. {9} "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."***

Now, let’s read the parable again, and let’s concentrate especially on verse 9 and I hope you can catch the sarcastic tone to which it is intended.