

September 19, 2025

Daily Reflections



POWER SHARED

By Sister Christine Hilliard, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Responsorial Psalm

*Fear not when a man grows rich,
when the wealth of his house becomes great,
For when he dies, he shall take none of it;
his wealth shall not follow him down.
Though in his lifetime he counted himself blessed,
“They will praise you for doing well for yourself,”
He shall join the circle of his forebears
who shall never more see light.*

PSALM 49:17-18, 19-20

Reflection

The declaration in this psalm is that reliance on wealth is, in the end,

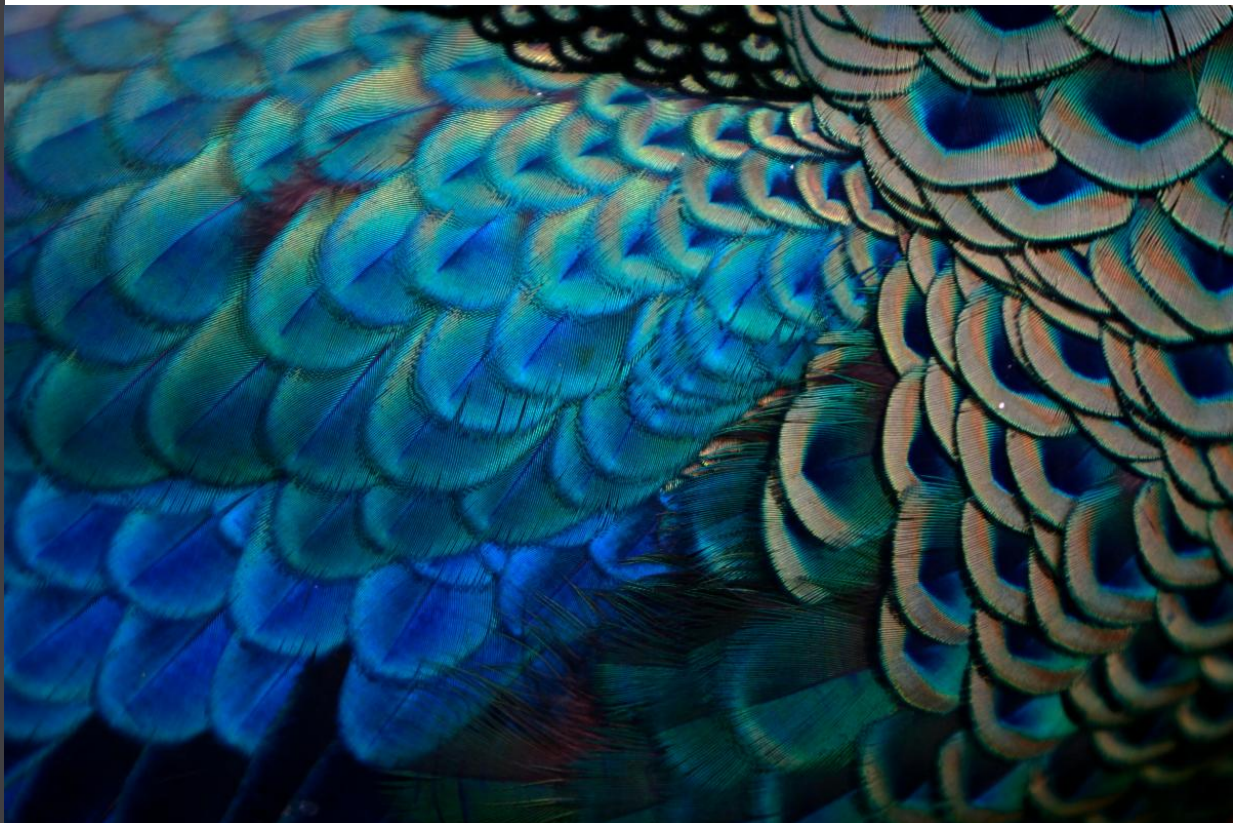
foolishness.

The author acknowledges that everyone knows the poor are vulnerable. What everyone needs to remember is that the same is true of the wealthy. In the real issues of life and death they are as vulnerable and undefended as everyone else. It is against common sense to imagine that somehow the wealthy are immune and safe. Society's standards do not function effectively at the holy, dangerous places of life because the power of reality does not respect artificial lines of difference.

This psalm is especially relevant in our contemporary society that has been described as rich in things but poor in soul. The point is that it is better to rely on God than on accumulated possessions or immediate gratification of artificially manufactured "needs." It is better to focus on a relationship with God.

In the midst of reflections about the human condition, this psalm is a confession of trust in God at the heart of everything as one practices with confidence that it is God who saves.

Notably however, God cannot save without my consent and cooperation. "Saving" only happens in freedom and in relationship. There is no "power over," only "power shared."



Close-Up of Peacock Feathers
Photo by Jeffry S.S.

For Pondering

As you consider Psalm 49:17-18, 19-20, what do you say to your Creator God?

What do you hear your Creator God saying to you?

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