



1. Read Psalm 49:1-4. Why does the Psalmist emphasize the importance of *listening* carefully to what is about to be said?

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- a. Why is it important to remember that Psalms are poetic songs?

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2. Read Psalm 49:5-6. Why are the people with the most money and power honored *most* in our world?

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- a. What leads us to feeling *inferior* before them?

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- b. How can we become *fearful* of them?

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- c. How can we become *enraged* with them?

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- d. Name some things that the powerful have done in the past several years that have deeply upset you.

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- e. As Christians, why must we keep our fears and anger in check here?

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3. Read Psalm 49:7-14. What is said about the wealthiest and most praised among us? Use some of the language from the passage to ponder the poetic lines in your heart.

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- a. Why is it important to remember that no one can pay the ransom price for their life, or the life of another?

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- b. How does the daily recognition that the most powerful will die help me to not feel inferior to them?

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- c. How does knowing the powerful all die help me to not fear them and also keep my anger in check toward them?

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- d. How should daily reflection on the impending death of every human impact my priorities?

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4. Read Psalm 49:15-20. What does it mean for God Himself to “ransom” your soul? Read Mark 10:45 and 1 Peter 1:18-19.

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- a. How should knowing God ransomed me affect how I view *myself*?

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- b. How should being ransomed by God impact the way I view those who are *powerful and ungodly*?

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- c. Why does daily reflection and hope in Heaven change everything?

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