Exaggeration

- Exaggeration is an interesting word!
  - at first glance has a negative connotation...
  - Roaster the Boaster....

- But closer examination examination can reveal more subtle hues:
  - the over-dramatic gestures of the stage...
  - the exaggeration of a key feature that an artist employs to aid recognition, especially in cartoon

- This is a passage full of exaggeration:
  - "exaggeration" of the completeness and constancy of the Law, God's OT revelation (v.17-18)
  - "exaggeration" of the standards that pervade God's kingdom (v.19-20, 21-22, and the imagined context for vs.23-24 and 25-26)

- Wider context is: these are the standards of the kingdom, this is the ideal

- vs.19-20 deserve special mention
  - breaks and teaches to break least in kingdom
  - keeps and teaches to keep great in kingdom
  - but only perfect will ever enter the kingdom
- Context: entry won for us by Christ, but "status" related to our entering into the kingdom's values

Anger

- What is of particular concern here?
  - first of a series of practical sections, dealing with the actual commands we are to keep and teach others to keep
  - anger, malice, fallings out are the issue
  - exaggeration used to emphasise and accentuate what is being said...
  - harsh word raised to the same level as murder! (v.21-22)
  - disagreement raised above religious observance (v.23-24)
  - disagreement likened to a court case with severe sentencing consequences - like a 3 point speeding ticket getting you a life sentence!

Questions

- What practical steps can we take to control our anger?

- How can we help ourselves take the difficult step of going to be reconciled to our brother"?

Conclusion: Praxis

- Its about seeing change in life, not just in learning