

Context

- This is what the Kingdom is like, this is what it is to be like inside the kingdom
 - so assumption is these words are directed at believers, or apply to believers
 - with non-believers perhaps "listening in" to see what might be involved or implied in being a part of this kingdom...*(something, for instance, we said to YF in Motherwell explicitly, and at parts of several evangelistic courses)*

Patterns

- Repeated another couple of times before the end of the chapter
- What was Jesus doing in this repeated pattern?
 - claim to authority
 - raising what people accepted as God's standard - you've got to jump higher - how bad does something have to be before it gets called a sin, something to cut you off from God?

Be realistic?!

Divorce (vs.31-32)

- **Implicit** permission to divorce in **Deuteronomy 24:1**
 - the passage there is about what is and is not sin following a divorce for those concerned - can they marry someone else, can they get back together - and is being widowed the same as divorce?
 - do we cry "be realistic"?

Oaths (vs.33-37)

- What's the issue here?
 - swearing on an oath is not something I think we do today - do we?
 - "I swear by XXXX that such and such is true..."
 - the greater the thing that we swear by, the more believable our claim is - and whichever power is invoked would have some kind of retribution if we act falsely, be it dead relatives, the king, or God
- Is this a problem for us?
 - fingers crossed behind our backs?
- Jesus is saying: be truthful, more truthful than you have been, and more truthful than anyone else
 - are there areas where we as Christians still prone to economies with the truth?

Lust (vs.27-30)

- Now this is one that's very pertinent!!
What questions do you have?
- How should we apply:
 - v.29 "If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell." (and v.30 likewise)
- Isn't this completely unrealistic in contemporary society?

Conclusion

- So, what are we to conclude?
 - that living the Christian life is impossible?
 - that the standard is high!
 - that Jesus is Lord....!