

## **Perception of Risk in the Sermon on the Mount**

The Sermon on the Mount (SM) alters the perception of risk in several ways as a strategy to convince its audience that it is worthwhile to take the risks involved in practicing the dangerous ethics of the sermon. This paper discussed how contemporary research on the perception of risk can help us understand a) how and whether the SM convinces its readers, and b) what effect the SM might have had on the Matthean community. There are several competing research paradigms in research on the perception of risk: behavioural economics, psychometrics, cultural theory of risk, and the Social Amplification of Risk Framework (SARF). All these models help us understand different aspects of how the SM might have functioned to alter perception of risk among its hearers in the Matthean community.