



# EXPOSITION

Monthly e-Bulletin from Virginia Beach Theological Seminary



Daniel K. Davey, Th.D.

## From My Window

The famous Rev. Matthew Henry (1662-1714) is well known for his complete commentary series on the Old and New Testaments. He was blessed with a brilliant mind being well-versed in Latin, French, Greek and Hebrew. It was after he had studied and preached for over two decades that he decided to put his commentary series together in written form. Rev. Henry also kept a journal and a fascinating display of thanksgiving comes from his entry "on the occasion of being robbed." He writes, "I thank Thee first because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my purse they did not take my life; third, because although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, and not I who robbed." In this journal entry, Rev. Henry beautifully displayed Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you."

Dan & Karis Seely (M.Div., 2004)  
Yaoundé, Cameroon



## Alumni in Ministry Spotlight

After graduating from VBTS, Dan Seely studied theological French in Paris for the purpose of becoming a full-time seminary professor at Cameroon Biblical Seminary in Cameroon, Africa. Dan and Karis have been blessed of the Lord with 4 children - Khloe, Kayla, Krista, and Elliot. Their family has a heart to serve with a spirit of grace. Dan sums up their desire for Africa with these words: "We are seeking to lead men and women to know Christ through an understanding of the text and to open their eyes to the glory of grace in order to prepare them to be ministers of the Gospel across the African continent." Thank you, Dan, for your commitment to prepare servants for the Body of Christ.



**2016 Harvest  
Gift for VBTS**  
**Students Update:**  
Goal - \$50,000  
Raised - \$22,000  
(as of 11.19.2016)



## Truth for the Agora: “I thank you Father, Lord of Heaven” Matt. 11:25

**Have you considered** that the New Testament records Jesus stopping his daily activity to give his Father thanks? Since this is the *Thanksgiving Season*, I thought it might be good for us to briefly examine the thankful spirit of our Savior, and through this investigation be impressed with the importance of rendering praise to God. If our Redeemer was thankful in all things to his Father, should not we – his redeemed – exhibit the same spirit?

**The Gospels** record Jesus offering his Father “thanks” five times in his earthly ministry. These recorded stories are heightened by two significant details: (1) the Gospels use two different Greek words to unveil Jesus’ prayers of thanksgiving: *eucharisteō* which emphasizes “a spirit of gratitude,” and *exomologeomai* which highlights “a confession of praise;” and (2) each occasion in which Jesus gives thanks to God is a humanly impossible situation; yet, Jesus professes praise for his Father’s will. With these two details in mind, observe the five occurrences of Jesus presenting his thanks to God.

No.	Text	Term	Gratitude in a Difficult Life Circumstance
1	Matt. 11:25	<i>exomologeomai</i>	Surrounded by the hardness of the Jews, Jesus praised the Father for disclosing the truth to “infants” while hiding the truth from “the wise.”
2	John 6:11,23	<i>eucharisteō</i>	Before Jesus fed 5,000 hungry people with only 5 loaves and 2 fish, he gave thanks.
3	Matt. 15:36	<i>eucharisteō</i>	Before Jesus fed 4,000 hungry people with only 7 loaves and 2 fish, he gave thanks.
4	John 11:41	<i>eucharisteō</i>	Jesus had the stone moved from the grave, thanked the Father that he hears his prayer, and then raised Lazarus from the dead.
5	Matt. 26:27	<i>eucharisteō</i>	Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper giving thanks for the cup representing “my blood” of the new covenant.

**Webster’s Dictionary (1828)** defines the term “thanksgiving” as “the act of rendering thanks or expressing gratitude.” As we clearly observe from the five occasions in which Jesus gives thanks, gratitude is *not* related to the difficulty of the moment but is the overflow of a heart dedicated to the will of God. In truth then, “thanksgiving” may be the highest form of praise a believer can render to God for it reveals a heart of acceptance for what God has permitted into his or her life. This very reality is what motivated the Apostle Paul to exhibit a heart “abounding in thankfulness” while sitting in jail (Col 1:3, 12; 2:7; 3:15; 4:2). In this difficult situation, he admonishes the church of Colossae and us today – “whatever you do in word or deed, *do everything* in the name of the Lord Jesus, *giving thanks to God the Father through him.*”