Acts 20
1 After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had exhorted them and taken his leave of them, he left to go to Macedonia.
2 When he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece.
3 And there he spent three months, and when a plot was formed against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.
4 And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, the son of Pyrrhus, and by Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.
5 But these had gone on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas.
6 We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas within five days; and there we stayed seven days.
7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.
8 There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together.
9 As Paul spoke on and on, a young man named Eutychus, sitting on the windowsill, became very drowsy. Finally, he fell sound asleep and dropped three stories to his death below.
10 But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, “Do not be troubled, for his life is in him.”
11 When he had gone back up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left.

Dear Sir:

It seems ministers feel their sermons are very important and spend a great deal of time preparing them. I have been attending church quite regularly for thirty years, and I have probably heard 3,000 of them. To my consternation, I discovered I cannot remember a single sermon. I wonder if a minister’s time might be more profitably spent on something else?
Dear Sir:

I have been married for thirty years. During that time I have eaten 32,850 meals – mostly my wife’s cooking. Suddenly I have discovered I cannot remember the menu of a single meal. And yet, I have the distinct impression that without them, I would have starved to death long ago.

2 Tim 1:9 who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,
10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,
11 to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

Matt Brown – Sandals Church - I was 15 years old - I go to summer camp and I hear the voice of God for the first time and God calls me to preach -freaked me out - I don't know what I'm supposed to do -God said preach - I didn't want to know what it meant so I ignored it for three years.

Then I'm graduating from a public high school in California and before we graduated they made you take a test to try to help you figure out what you're going to do for the rest of your life.

So my English teacher Miss Brown had us take this test and she helped us understand and interpret the results of
the test so I got my test back - I looked at the word clergy of what I was supposed to be and I didn't know what it so Miss Brown comes up and she looks at my test results and she's laughs - huh that can't be true. I said what is it? She says “sweetie you don't know what clergy is?”

I thought if you had clergy you go to the doctor and you take medication. You know “what happened to Matt, he got clergy, a really bad bad case of clergy.”

So God calls us and you say “oh well that's special, God loves you so much that he called you” no no no

listen God didn't call me to preach just because he loves me he called me to preach because he loves you

and here's why - you're a bunch of knuckleheads and you couldn't listen to anyone else preach and so God looked at you - how are we gonna reach that guy?

I don't know that guy's an idiot – who could communicate with that idiot and Jesus is like I got it - I know I know Matt Brown he can do it.

Tell you the hard stuff.

The message to follow Jesus is not an easy one.

How to get saved. Jesus alone.

How to grow up in their faith.

How to be a soldier for Jesus and persevere to the end.
12 They took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted.
13 But we, going ahead to the ship, set sail for Assos, intending from there to take Paul on board; for so he had arranged it, intending himself to go by land.
14 And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene.
15 Sailing from there, we arrived the following day opposite Chios; and the next day we crossed over to Samos; and the day following we came to Miletus.
16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.
17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.
18 And when they had come to him, he said to them, “You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time,
19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;
20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,
21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

A GOOD PASTOR OR TEACHER WILL NEVER SHRINK FROM TELLING YOU THE HARD STUFF.
2 Timothy 4
2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.
3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,
4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.
5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

22 “And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there,
23 except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.
24 “But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

25 “And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face.

26 “Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.
27 “For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.
28 “Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
29 “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;
30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

31 “Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

During the closing prayer God was entreated to “help us inquire of those of other religions so we can understand the many ways of God.”

I don’t know about your bible, but mine still states in Acts 4:12 - Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. You can say that’s awful narrowminded. But then I remind you what Jesus said in Matthew 7:14 but small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. And Matthew 7:15 “watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

One of Aesop’s Fables is about a wolf in sheep’s clothing. A wolf had his eye on a certain flock of sheep, but he couldn’t get any of the sheep he wanted because of the vigilance of the shepherd and his dogs. Then he saw the skin of a sheep that had been flayed, so he put the skin on as a costume and went among the sheep as one of their own. The lamb who belonged to the sheep the wolf was wearing began following the wolf in sheep’s clothing. He led the lamb apart from the rest of the sheep and made a meal of her. The wolf was able to deceive the sheep and keep feasting on them for some time. But eventually, the
shepherd, in examining his sheep, discovered the wolf, and killed him. (Wolves in Sheep’s Clothing by Jim Heidebrecht)

32 “And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
33 “I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes.
34 “You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me.
35 “In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”
36 When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.
37 And they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him,
38 grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship.

Go to church or bible study to hear from God.

Know your bible.
Encourage your pastor.
Watch who you are listening to.