



**The**  
**Dark**  
**and the**  
**Dawn**

**STEVE NORMAN**

A background image of water splashing, rendered in a dark blue color scheme. The water is captured in motion, with droplets and ripples visible. The overall tone is monochromatic and serene.

# Jeremiah 20

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A dynamic background of water splashing, with a dark blue gradient overlay. The water is captured in motion, with droplets and ripples visible. The overall color palette is shades of blue, from light to dark.

**Feel**

**Fully**

When the priest Pashhur son of Immer, the official in charge of the temple of the Lord, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things, he had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put in the stocks at the Upper Gate of Benjamin at the Lord's temple. The next day, when Pashhur released him from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, "The Lord's name for you is not Pashhur, but Terror on Every Side.

Jeremiah 20:1-3

You deceived me, Lord, and I was deceived; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me. Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction. So the word of the Lord has brought me insult and reproach all day long. But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones.

I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side! Denounce him! Let's denounce him!" All my friends are waiting for me to slip, saying, "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we will prevail over him and take our revenge on him."

Jeremiah 20:7-10

But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonor will never be forgotten. Lord Almighty, you who examine the righteous and probe the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the Lord! Give praise to the Lord! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.

Jeremiah 20:11-13

A background image of water splashing, rendered in a dark blue color scheme. The water is captured in motion, with droplets and ripples visible. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

The main job of the teacher is to teach  
gently the inevitability of pain.

Frederick Buechner



The background of the image is a dynamic splash of water in shades of blue, with numerous bubbles and ripples. The water appears to be moving from the top towards the bottom, creating a sense of motion and energy.

**Start**

**Screaming**

# Learning to Lament

- The opening address
- The complaint
- The confession of trust
- The petition for help
- The vow of praise

\*Fuller Formation Groups

A dynamic background featuring a splash of water in shades of blue and teal, with numerous bubbles and ripples. The water appears to be moving from the top left towards the bottom right, creating a sense of motion and freshness.

# Psalm 22

A background image of water splashing, with a blue color overlay. The water is captured in motion, creating a dynamic and textured appearance. The blue overlay is semi-transparent, allowing the water's details to be visible while providing a consistent color scheme for the text.

# Address:

My God my God...

Psalm 22:1a ESV

# Complaint:

Why have you forsaken me? Why are you  
in so far from helping me, from the words  
of my groaning?

Psalm 22:1b ESV

# Confession of Trust:

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

Psalm 22:3-4 ESV

# Petition:

Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and  
there is none to help.

Psalm 22:11 ESV

# Vow of Praise:

From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me. I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

Psalm 22:21a-22 ESV



# Vow of Praise:

From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me. I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

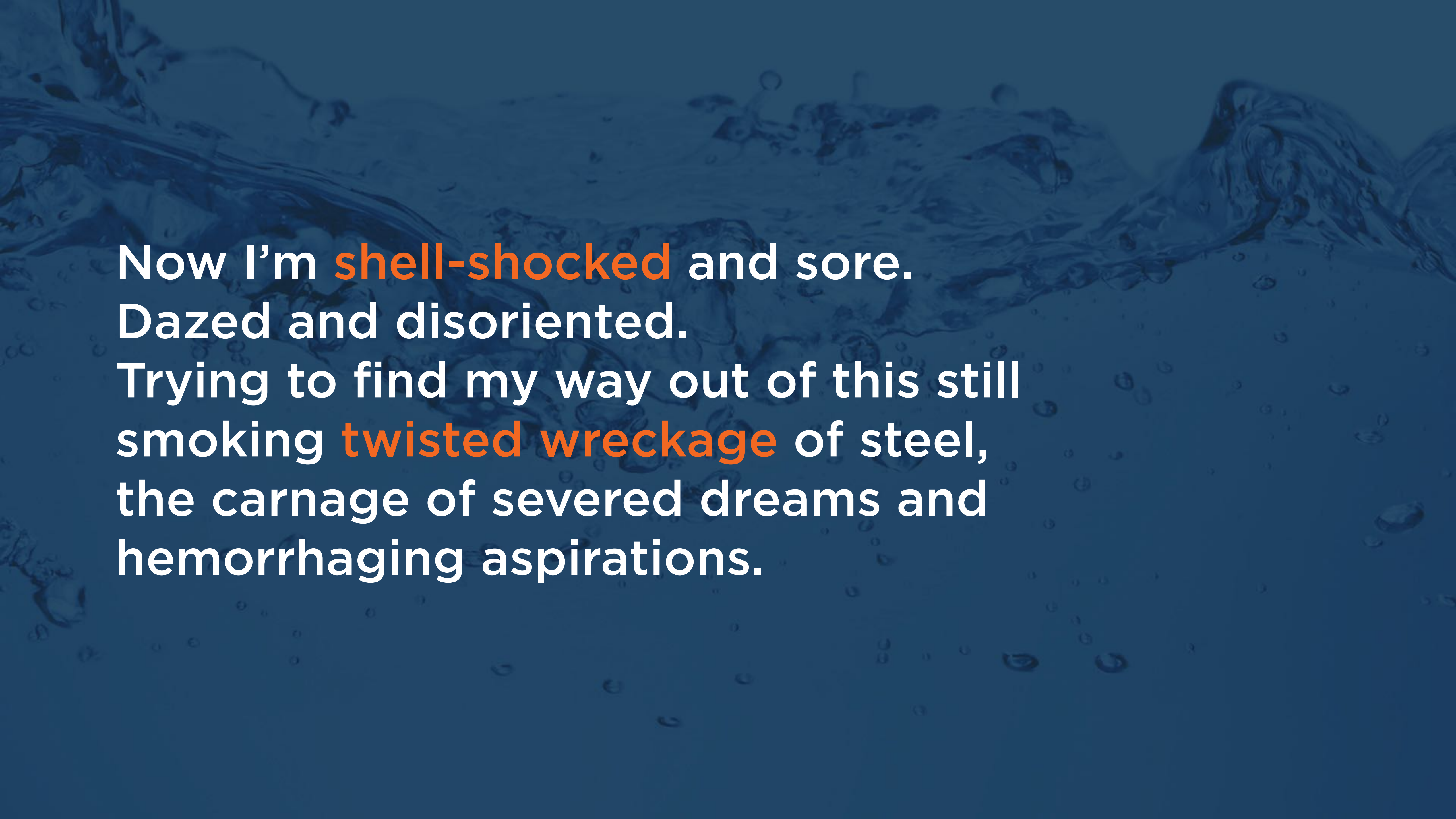
Psalm 22:21a-22 ESV

Hey God...

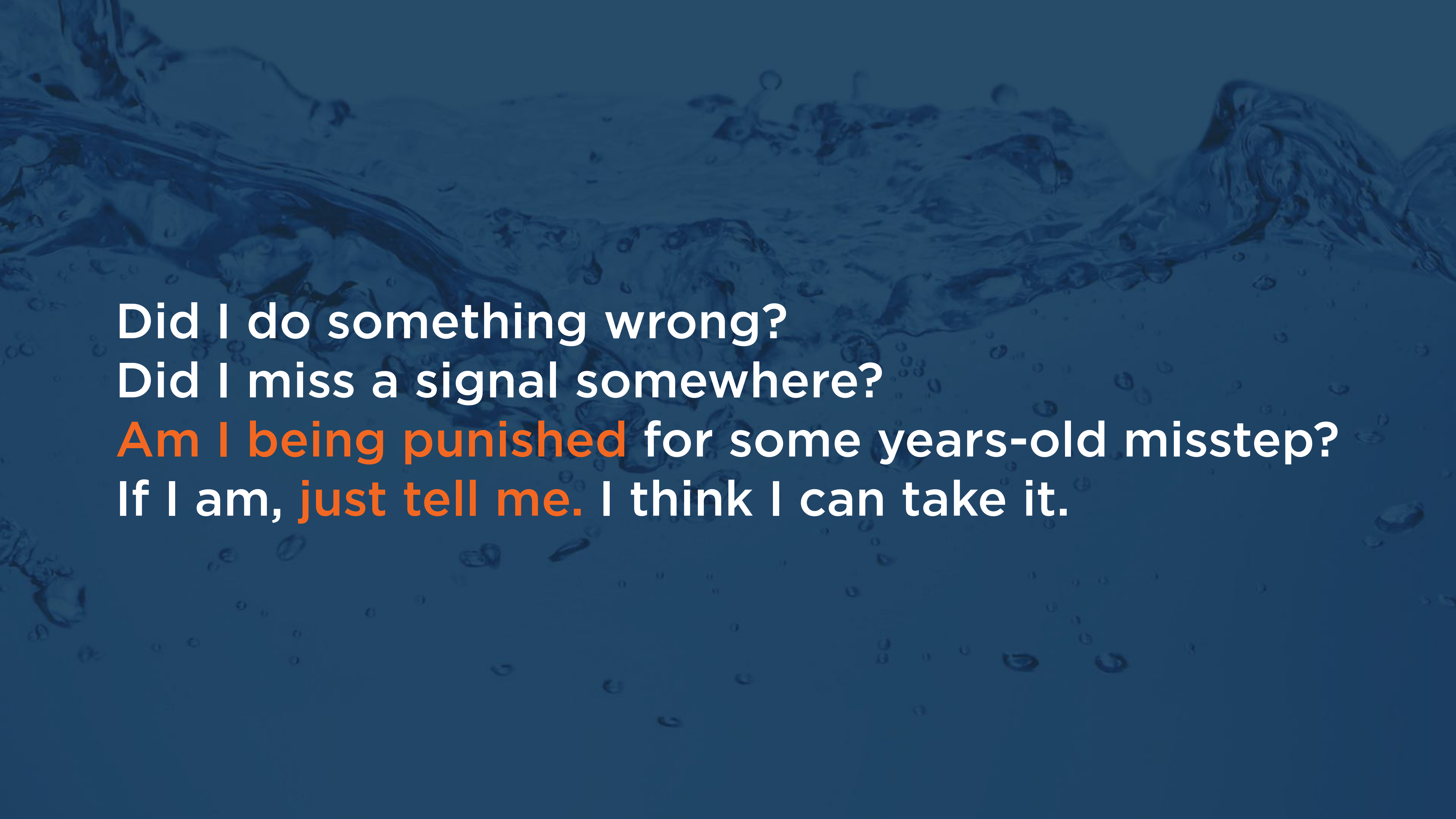
You know I'm not one to rant.

But life has jumped the rails of late.

You never told me the **bridge was out** ahead,  
so I just kept blissfully barreling down the tracks.



Now I'm **shell-shocked** and sore.  
Dazed and disoriented.  
Trying to find my way out of this still  
smoking **twisted wreckage** of steel,  
the carnage of severed dreams and  
hemorrhaging aspirations.

A background image of water splashing, with a dark blue overlay. The water is captured in motion, with droplets and ripples visible. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

Did I do something wrong?  
Did I miss a signal somewhere?  
**Am I being punished** for some years-old misstep?  
If I am, **just tell me.** I think I can take it.

But if not...

This is unconscionable, unwarranted,  
unnecessary, **unforgivable.**

Critics, rivals and haters dance around the six-  
foot hole I'm staring up from. **It's not right.**

And I labor in vain to find any slice of this that's  
**redeemable.**

Do you have a plan?

Was there any forethought you put into this?

Did you have an off-day?

Did I fall off your radar or did you just forget to show up?

I kept screaming out to Dispatch for some form of backup.

All I'm getting is radio silence from you.

It's getting lonely out here.

And yet...

And yet...

And yet... somewhere behind the veil a Redeemer lives. **My Redeemer.**

Somewhere in this fog You stand. And You stand **with me, near me, for me.**

There's **not a season of sadness** You haven't extracted good from.

So even if it's only a whimper, I'll say it again.

And maybe against my own fractured perspective, **I trust You.**



Heal me.

Stretch me.

Vindicate me.

Clear my name and glorify Yours.

Confirm my call and validate my cause.



Just because I don't know what You're up to,  
doesn't mean You don't know what You're  
doing.

So I'm putting a **pin in this praise.**

I'll **thank you** in advance, because something  
good is coming from You-  
the Giver of **every good gift.**

Just because I don't know what You're up to,  
doesn't mean You don't know what You're  
doing.

So I'm putting a **pin in this praise.**

I'll **thank you** in advance, because something  
good is coming from You—  
the Giver of **every good gift.**

**Cursed be the day I was born! May the day my mother bore me not be blessed! Cursed be the man who brought my father the news, who made him very glad, saying, “A child is born to you—a son!” May that man be like the towns the Lord overthrew without pity.**

May he hear wailing in the morning, a battle cry at noon. For he did not kill me in the womb, with my mother as my grave, her womb enlarged forever. Why did I ever come out of the womb to see trouble and sorrow and to end my days in shame?

Jeremiah 20:14-18

A background image of water splashing, rendered in a dark blue color scheme. The water is captured in motion, with droplets and ripples visible. The overall tone is serene and contemplative.

Christ's love sees us with terrible clarity  
and sees us whole.

Frederick Buechner

**Keep**

**Clinging**

Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever! I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Job 19:23-27

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,



and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

Isaiah 61:1-3



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