I. John the Baptist ‘s life and purpose must be understood by a disciple of Jesus.

A. Disciples must learn to connect the two characters of John the Baptist and Elijah

 without espousing reincarnation.

 1. Luke 1 and Matthew 11 need to be coupled.

a. Jesus teaches a disciple a new type of physics: Spiritual Physics (vs. classical physics; quantum physics; metaphysics—note Christian Science)

 B. Disciples must learn not only to think but also to rethink.

 1. John the Baptist is the champion of rethinking.

 a. His basic message is, “Rethink!” (re-pent)

 2. His basic message (implied) is, “Reconnect!”

 a. Reconnect faith and action.

 3. No one ever gets more mileage out of the prefix “re” than he.

II. Let’s use “Spiritual Physics” to consider the introduction of Jesus and John the Baptist.

 A. Life on other planets is not addressed in spiritual physics; however, life in other

 realms is addressed.

 1. They appear

 2. They speak

 3. They identify themselves.

III. John the Baptist is the great connector of the life, message, and work of Jesus with the Old

 Testament.

 A. Consider how the Old Testament ends: Malachi 4

 B. Consider Isaiah 40

IV. This background is the perfect backdrop for the parable of Jesus regarding wine and

 wineskins given at Levi’s banquet in Luke 5.

A. Interestingly, this parable follows the great story of Peter as he receives a new

 wineskin.

 B. This gives us an opportunity to **rethink**, **reconsider**, and **reconnect** our faith and

 actions and receive the teachings of Jesus in new wineskins.

**Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

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| **1.** Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.Streams of mercy, never ceasingCall for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnetSung by flaming tongues above.Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,Mount of Thy unchanging love. | **2.** Here I raise my Ebenezer,Hither by Thy help I've come.And I hope, by Thy good pleasureSafely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a strangerWandering from the fold of GodHe, to rescue me from dangerInterposed His precious blood. | **3.** O to grace how great a debtorDaily I'm constrained to beLet that grace now, like a fetterBind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel itProne to leave the God I loveHere's my heart, O take and seal it,Seal it for Thy courts above. |