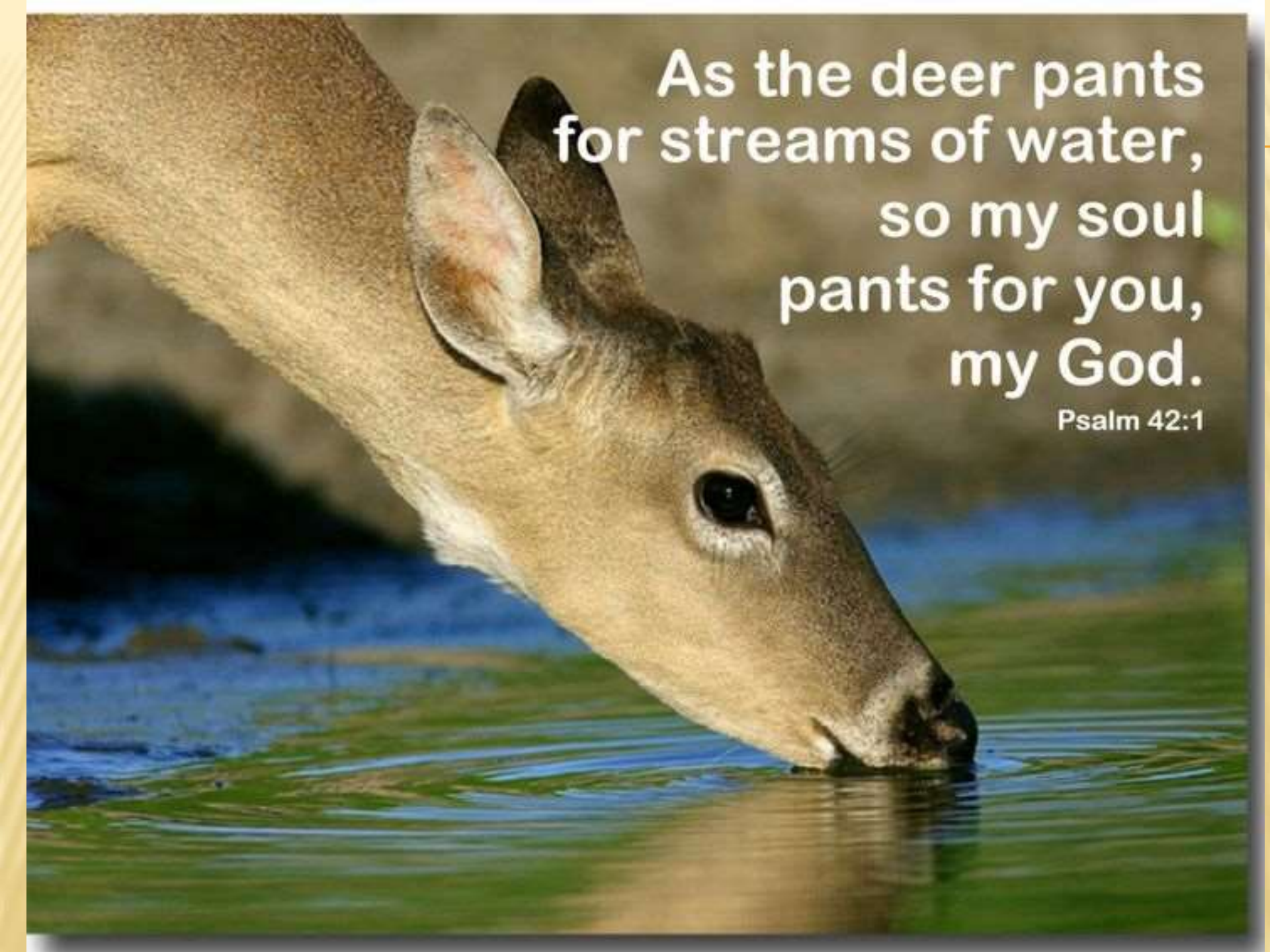




**Matthew 5:6**

**THE BLISS OF THE  
STARVING SOUL**



As the deer pants  
for streams of water,  
so my soul  
pants for you,  
my God.

Psalm 42:1



# IT UNCOMPROMISINGLY LAYS DOWN THE DEMAND OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

- ✘ Christian life is not for the dilettante
- ✘ Desire righteousness as a matter of life and death.
- ✘ Illustration of Vinicius in *Quo Vadis*.
- ✘ The Christian does not say...
- ✘ Instead, he says, “I surrender all to Jesus Christ.”



# POINTS TO THE MAIN CAUSE OF FAILURE IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

- ✘ We do not sufficiently desire to be all that Christ asks of us.
- ✘ “If a person is prepared to bend every energy, to sacrifice everything...
- ✘ Listen to Luke’s version of the opposite of this beatitude...



# KINDEST AND MOST ENCOURAGING OF THE BEATITUDES



- ✘ Tells us of the sympathy and care of God for the seeker and searcher
- ✘ Not who has **ATTAINED** righteousness who is blessed, but the one who hungers and thirsts after it!
- ✘ “Thirst” is an important metaphor for the quest of God and a relationship with Him.



# THIS BEATITUDE TELLS US OF THE TOTALITY OF CHRISTIAN GOODNESS

- ✘ In what way Matthew portrays Jesus in his gospel account as being the very one who can satisfy that deep spiritual hunger and thirst for God?



# MATTHEW 25:37-44

- ✘ I get the distinct impression that Matthew is trying to tell us that the satisfied way of the Christian life, and proof of hungering and thirsting after righteousness, occurs when we respond to those in need of help. This is righteousness in action, caring enough to respond with the heart and mind of Christ! May we hunger and thirst for righteousness more!
- ✘ Also God satisfies—divine passive—gift!

