

# Spiritual Places

In the early 1900s, a policeman was walking his beat in Chicago when he observed a man standing before a little mission. He had removed his hat, and the officer thought he was acting rather strangely.

Thinking the man might be drunk or ill, the policeman approached him. He noticed that his eyes were closed, so he nudged him and said, "What's the matter, Mac? Are you sick?"

The man looked up and smiled. "No, sir. My name is Billy Sunday (the celebrated American evangelist). I was converted right here in this mission. I never pass this way without taking the opportunity, if possible, to stand quietly for a moment and whisper a prayer of thanksgiving."

In the Old Testament, altars were often erected as memorials of praise. They hallowed a certain spot where a devout worshiper had encountered God.

Many of us identify with the feeling that Billy Sunday demonstrated on that Chicago street. Every time I pass the brick church at the corner of Fourth and Laurel in Cookeville, Tenn., the sanctuary where I studied about Christ and opened my heart to him, and where Lola and I were married, gratitude for what happened there fills my soul.

For you, perhaps it was the scene where God joined you and your loved one in holy matrimony. Or maybe it was a location – a mountaintop, a camp, an island in a river – where God revealed Himself to you through the still, small voice of His Holy Spirit and confirmed a plan for your life. It might be a hospital in which the Lord showed you one of His miracles, the birth of a child.

Some places, to be sure, do hold a blessed spiritual significance for us. As we occasionally return to them, whether in person or in our mind's eye, we should lift our hearts in praise to God for His goodness.

--Beecher Hunter