

# Edison and Fishing

Inventor Thomas Edison had an intriguing way of celebrating his creative successes.

“During the summertime,” Edison said, “after we had made something which was successful, I used to engage a brick-sloop at Perth Amboy and take the whole crowd down to the fishing banks on the Atlantic for two days.”

On one such excursion, Edison sat patiently with his fishing pole and line. But he hooked no fish. He continued fishing into the night. He followed the same pattern the second day and also the second night. He was determined to catch a fish, but he failed.

As they reached the end of their allotted time, Edison’s companions urged him to put away his gear, so they could go home. But he would not. Finally, Edison’s exasperated co-workers pulled up the anchor and sailed away, thus compelling him to stop.

Had Edison been the sole person making the decisions, he would have continued until he met his goal.

Edison’s determination was woven into the very fiber of his being. He was determined in the lab, and he was determined on vacation. It was his character.

Character is not merely a manner of behavior you adopt at the office or in the nursing center, then set aside at home. It is especially important for those of us in leadership to keep this principle constantly before us.

--Beecher Hunter