

NOT AFRAID TO SAIL UNCHARTED WATERS.

August 24, 2024

AUDIO

VÍDEO

sc. **01**

Can you imagine traveling the oceans and having a new adventure daily? This was Joseph Bates's dream. As there were no airplanes then, he grew up watching whaling ships leaving and returning to the harbor from his bedroom window.

sc. **02**

The boy's mind sailed with those boats as he grew up in New Bedford, Massachusetts. To dissuade Joseph from his dream, his parents sent him on a short boat trip at a young age. Instead of getting disheartened, the young man was more inflamed than ever.

sc. **03**

During the next twenty-one years, Bates devoted himself to life at sea. After some time living his dream, he set the goal of saving 10,000 dollars – a fortune at the time – to buy his own boat.

sc. **04**

He was successful and bought a vessel. However, Bates' ship was different. Alcoholic beverages or tobacco were forbidden, and the crew couldn't use profanity. During one of his trips, he found a Bible his wife had packed in his luggage. As he read it, he was touched by the love of Jesus.

sc. **05**

It didn't take long for him to discover the Sabbath. Then, he looked for Adventists who kept the Sabbath to study this new truth. Later, in August 1846, Bates published a forty-eight-page book presenting the of the fourth commandment's claims.

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sc. **06**

After retiring from the sea, Bates invested his energy and money in preaching about the soon coming of Jesus and the Biblical Sabbath. Bates became a mainstay of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and left a legacy that went beyond his fortune: He dedicated the remainder of his life to the cause of God.

sc. **07**

God calls each of us to stretch our faith, whether to go where He calls us or to give regularly and systematically as He directs. Besides returning God's tithes, giving includes listening to His voice as He calls us to make a covenant with Him in returning regular and systematic offerings, which we call "Promise.". God's promises always follow those who fear Him and put Him first. So challenge yourself and ask God, "What percentage of my income do You want me to give regularly as my Promise offering?" Then, listen for His answer.

sc. **08**

Putting your desires last and saying "yes" to God is the only way to stretch your faith and put God first.