

# THE COMPLACENT BRANCH



There was a branch on the Vine that produced the most magnificent leaves.

People came from miles around to admire their beauty, which far out-shined any other branch on the Vine. One day a stranger came to see this awesome branch, and noticed that for all its leaves, it was producing no grapes.

*“Why aren’t you producing grapes on your lovely branch?”* asked the stranger.

*“Leaves are my focus. And you can see the result. Aren’t they beautiful?”*

One day the Vinedresser came along and noticed the magnificent leaves. He came closer to see if this branch was producing grapes.

The Vinedresser shook his head in sadness, pulled out a huge knife, and lopped off the branch. The poor branch lay there on the ground with withered leaves, until the gardener came by, picked it up, and threw it into the fire.



***“I am the True Vine, and my Father is the Vinedresser. Every branch of mine that bears no fruit he takes away. And every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.....  
Whoever abides in me, and I in them, they are the ones who bear much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”***

John 15

*Prayer: Lord, open our eyes to our complacency and our satisfaction in our own accomplishments. Without you we are withered, lifeless branches. We desire to be part of you. May we abide in you each and every day. You are our source of life. As we stay open to your life, our branches will be filled with fruit, your life; Life that quickens and sustains all whom reach out for nourishment.*

Message: Richard E. Bieber 2019

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