



## **“Nitty Gritty” ” – September 14th “Removing Our Crutch”**

### **Big Idea: Jesus Challenges the Security of Our Comfortable Messed Up Lives.**

In the sermon this week we talked about having a Python hiding in your house. What a powerful picture of a pest that would definitely get your attention. There are other “pests” in our homes. Attitudes that remain sour, resentments that do not get resolved, relationships that remain strained, and habits that remain unchanged. In our text this week Jesus will challenge the security of our comfortable messed up lives. We all know we have issues but we need to know if we have the will to be well. Jesus wants to know if we are tired of living with the pest. This series will get to the “**Nitty Gritty**” of our heart. Be prepared for a direct practical probing.

**Open it:** What scares you more spiders or snakes? Do you have another pest that gives you the creeps? Do you have any stories about a “pest” that made your life uncomfortable?

**Dig It: Read John 5:1-15.** Jesus comes to a very interesting place. The pool called Bethesda was a place where invalids came to supposedly find some healing current.

1. What are some of the things that are going through the mind of someone who has been crippled for 38 years?
2. Why do you think Jesus asked the question, “do you want to get well?”
3. Did the man answer the question? What did his answer reveal about him and his sickness?
4. What does it say about Jesus and his mercy that he heals him even though he does not answer the question or confess his need for Him?
5. In verse 14-15 what could be worse than being an invalid for 38 years?
6. Respond and comment on the following statement: Jesus many times would heal the physical to attest to a greater healing.

### **Reflect on it: The Nitty Gritty!!**

1. What are the “pests” that exist in your heart? How long have some of them been there?
2. How is it possible that we can live with these things without a serious challenge to them?
3. If Jesus asked you, “do you want to get well,” how would you answer Him? Would you say yes, no or would you start explaining your problem to Him?

### **Do it:**

1. Is there any action that you can take to start answering the question, “Do you want to get well?”
2. Pray for each other that we will not grow comfortable in our mess.

