

unfolding church

7

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

*Accompanies podcast "Bold" - 7/10/22
at www.newdaynw.com/sermons*

Read Acts 4

The disciples found themselves at odds with the faith community in which they were raised. Have you ever found yourself experiencing a tension between following Jesus and associating with a church? How did that (or does that) feel? What was the source of the tension?

List the words/feelings/results you associate with the healing of the lame man. Contrast that with words you associate with the reactions of the leaders to the miracle.

In their concern to "do the right thing" and pursue godliness, the leaders were missing out on the power of Christ right in front of them. How does that happen so often for those of us who want to follow God?

In response, the disciples didn't focus on arguing or fighting the establishment. Instead they concentrated on the message of Jesus and the gospel. How does the gospel help us when we find ourselves in a place of tension with our larger faith community?

The disciples turned their energies toward loving and caring for each other in the face of the opposition. What is one practical way you can choose a response of love over fear right now?