



AT THE MOVIES 2026 • NEW HOPE CHURCH

When Life Does Not Go as Planned (Solo Mio)

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SAM PRICE

My name is Sam Price. I'm the director of student ministry and young adult ministry here at church, and we are so excited that you're here this morning. We've been doing this series for a very long time. At the end of the summer, we do our Back to or At the Movies series where we look at different movies from the past year and how our faith kind of relates into what we're kind of learning and seeing in culture throughout this year. If this is your first time here, also we don't watch movies every single week at New Hope Church, so this is just something that's special. But I think we can all relate to today's message. And today's message is all about when life doesn't go as planned.

Each and every one of us has something that happens in our lives that's unexpected that throws us off. Maybe you had a certain plan. A certain outcome, a certain expectation. Yet something happened where those expectations or that plan just never came true. And today's movie is called Solo Mio, which follows the story of our main character named Matt. And Matt had a lot of different plans in his life and set up and set in place. until they all came crashing down when his wife-to-be left him at the altar. Matt, not knowing what to do, continues alone on his honeymoon, where he meets some friends, two married couples, as well as a woman named Gia. If you're into rom-coms with twists and different turns, then this is the movie that's for you.

And like I said in that 9 a.m. service, if you're not into romantic comedies, well, we're still going to watch the movie this morning. But there also will be some spoilers throughout the movie. But it's such a fun watch, which takes us to our first clip behind me.

[Film clip 1 • Solo Mio • dialogue not transcribed]

Now maybe you can think back to a time where you had so many plans set in place and you had maybe your fairy tale ending, everything was complete, and yet that plan came crashing down so quickly. Maybe you don't even have to think back to a time because you're in the middle of that story today, which is full of maybe uncertainty and doubt. Maybe for some of us in this room, it was a relationship ending. Maybe that was a friendship or a romantic one. Or maybe for others in this room, it was you planned to stay at a certain job for a certain period of time, but they had to make cuts and you were let go. Think back to a time when things just didn't go the way you had planned them out. I remember... A time where I had plans in place, and everything was kind of laid out in a sense, and I was really happy and excited about it.

That was my freshman year of college. My freshman year of college, I had the next four years planned out. I had my major picked. I was going to be a business economics major, and so I planned out which colleges, classes to take. which ones to maybe not try to take at 7 a.m., which ones that fit into my plan, and I was really excited. So I get there my first semester, I start to take all my classes, and I get to one of the first ones you have to get through to go into business economics major, which was microeconomics 101. And so I started off class, and I had a few of my friends and my teammates in there, which I thought was a comfort, and I really liked my professor.

And the first few weeks passed by, and I thought I was doing fantastic in the class. And also, it was very nice that I didn't have any tests or quizzes to have to do, so I thought I was doing fantastic. A few more weeks went by, and I started to realize maybe I wasn't really understanding what was going on. A few more weeks passed by, and then I really started to figure out I had no idea what was going on in Microeconomics 101. And so I started to ask friends for help. I started to go into extra sessions with my professor and extra credit stuff, whatever what that was. But the plain and simple fact was that I really had no idea what was going on.

And to make things even worse was that in a couple of weeks from that time, we were going to have a final, which was about 40% of our grade. And I really had no idea what was going on. And so the final few weeks of class and the final few weeks of that semester, I remember I went to all the study sessions and I studied maybe the hardest I'd ever studied before. And I went in to the exam and I felt like I did really well. And so I went throughout the rest of my fall semester or, you know, last week of the fall semester, and I was joyful. I was like, I did really well. I probably passed it. Maybe I even got, you know, a 96% on the test until... My teacher emailed me and said, hey, come to my office.

And I was like, oh, no, what does this mean? And not only did I not pass the final exam, I had really, really failed the final exam. Long story short was that there was no way I was going to get a passing grade to go on to the business economics major that I wanted to do. So there are multiple different options. Either I could switch majors or I could retake business economics or microeconomics 101 to continue on the major that I wanted to do. And I remember the frustration, the disappointment, the sadness, the embarrassment of having to tell my friends that I failed this class during that moment. in my life. My plan that I initially had just didn't work out. Even today, when plans don't go my way, it's still those same emotions, sadness, anger, frustration. So how do we deal with that?

How can we continue trusting God even when it might be hard to see that God is working in our lives? The first point is going to be on the screen. Is your plan A not working? Is not the end of your story? Even though I didn't pass microeconomics, my first initial plan, that wasn't the end of my college story right there. And so let's take a look at clip number two.

[Film clip 2 • Solo Mio • dialogue not transcribed]

It kind of reminds me when I bought something that's final sale and it says no returns, but I still try to return it. And they're like, you can't return it now. Sometimes you see our initial plan, it doesn't work out. And Matt's initial plan obviously didn't work out the way he wanted it to. But he still continues. on his journey. This is not the end of the story. This is the first 15 minutes of the movie. Proverbs 16 verse 9 says, we can make our

plans, but the Lord determines our steps. Scripture isn't saying that we shouldn't make plans or we shouldn't dream big or we shouldn't attempt to follow the plans that we're making. What it is saying is that the Lord determines our steps, that we can't really play the Lord or the ruler of our lives.

We have to let God control our steps. Now, this is a really cheesy example, and no one example is actually perfect. but this was the best I could think of. It's kind of like when we're going on a long road trip and we decide to leave, for example, on July 3rd at 5 p.m. You plan to get to your destination by midnight or 2 or 3 a.m. in the morning. You plan your drive out, which roads you're going to take, which roads you're going to avoid, where you want to maybe stop for gas, or if you're like me, where you're going to stop to get a snack. You start driving down 95, and there's traffic, because when isn't there traffic on 95? You reach a place where Apple Maps or Google Maps or Waze didn't show there being traffic, and it's just standstill.

You creep forward slowly and slowly. and thoughts start to creep into your mind like maybe you should have left the next morning maybe you should have tried a different route you watch your time go up and up and increasingly you get more and more frustrated there's no way you're gonna make it there by midnight or two or three you know, this story might be partially true. But right, your plan A, my plan A at this very moment didn't work out. However, it's not like we're going to jump out of the car and start walking back to our house in the middle of the highway. Just because your plans or my plans don't work out, doesn't mean the Lord isn't working in your life. Your story doesn't end there. It's just the beginning. Similar to the Matt story, we see that it's just the beginning.

He's going to meet so many different people and experience so many different things throughout the movie, throughout his journey. which leads us to our second point and it's God meets us in the detour not just the destination God meets us in the detour not just the destination which leads us to our second clip our third clip here on the screen behind me

[Film clip 3 • Solo Mio • dialogue not transcribed]

We see Matt's story, and this clip kind of here shows that he meets a bunch of different people throughout the trip. And I could have showed, you know, 20 more clips, but I didn't want us to be here for five hours watching the movie and talking about it. But he also meets more friends, two married couples as well. becomes friends with. He continues on his journey throughout this time, and he meets Gia, and she's really nice to him and helps him out. And even though they might not speak each other's languages fully, they become friends. Romans 8, 28 says, and we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

I find it comforting that we know that God is a perfect and amazing plan, even if my plans fall short. That there's not only times where he's there when I've reached my destination, but he's also there in the midst when I'm searching and in my detour. And maybe I've shared this story before, one of my favorite Bible stories in the Old Testament. But like I said in the 9 a.m. service, I'm not sure if I shared it at student ministry or young adults or here on stage. I said, somebody here knows my favorite story. I just don't remember who it might be. But those are the stories of the Israelites. The Israelites. escaped Egypt that they've been slaves in, and they get out of Egypt and they're happy and they're excited.

However, they didn't know that they were going to wander around the wilderness for 40 years. And we could obviously see this was not their first plan. This was probably not even part of their plan. For 40 years, the Israelites wandered the desert not knowing where to go. During this time, they doubted God. They tried to take matters into their own hands. They had wars. They had struggles. They were truly lost. But the thing I like to see in the story and look back in the story is that although this was their, quote unquote, detour, they're out in the wilderness, God still provided every step of the way. Although, yes, it wasn't with meat and honey and milk that the Israelites might have wanted. God provides them food, which is manna.

Although there are some times where they have to fight battles against other countries and other people, God provides them victories. You see that God meets, not only met them at their final destination in the promised land, he also met them on their detour. And the same goes for you and for me. You see, God's presence isn't determined by our circumstances or what's even happening around us. God is always with us, even on our detours or off-road adventures. Which leads us to our third point, which is no one's relationship or life is as perfect as it looks. Let's take a look at the next clip.

[Film clip 4 • Solo Mio • dialogue not transcribed]

Matt discovers that even though these two couples are on the honeymoon and their relationship or life might seem like it's going well, that no one's relationship or life is perfect. And it's easy for us to get caught up in comparing ourselves with other people. Isn't it easy for us to say, like, oh, I wish I would have had or have this person's life or have their relationship or have their job? And the truth is that no one's life is as perfect as it may seem. And although this message isn't about the danger of comparison, It is saying that we will always lose the battle when it comes to comparing our broken plans with somebody else's highlight reels or Instagram or Facebook stories. Our last one is healing has to come before forward motion.

We're going to see here in a second that Matt has to take time throughout the whole entire movie to grieve. and to heal really and he's not able to to fully be like i'm okay or everything's going to be all right until he's able to heal himself and that's going to lead us to our final clip they're going to watch here behind

[Film clip 5 • Solo Mio • dialogue not transcribed]

At the 9 a.m. service, I didn't really explain this too well. Ultimately, his wife, Heather, and Matt don't get back together, and Matt starts to kind of fall in love with Gia and throughout this whole entire story. And so that's what the spoiler ending. kind of looks like. So now the movie's spoiled. But I would encourage y'all, if you want to see the different characters and everything like that, it's a great movie to go back and watch. But healing has to come before forward motion. And the analogy I'll use is, if you hurt your ankle or you broke your ankle, for example, we all know that we would need time for that to heal. We wouldn't go the next day and try to run a marathon on it. We wouldn't try to maybe even walk around on it.

We know that we'd have to have it in a boot or a cast or something like that. We'd need to be on crutches. We'd maybe need to be in a wheelchair. It's pretty obvious if we broke a bone or hurt our ankle or broke our ankle, we would need time for it to heal. I think the same goes for the deep wounds that are inside of us that maybe other people don't see. We need to wait for those to heal as well, just like a physical injury. Because

how many of us carry around those burdens or those brokenness, kind of like a broken ankle, that just never heals because we've never... let it heal. I know there's some of us in this room this morning who came carrying a plan, their initial plan, and it fell apart.

Maybe if it's recent, maybe if it's something you've carried around for years, I want you to know that your story isn't over. Just because it didn't go the way you drew up, God is still working in your life. We saw today that your plan not working out isn't the end of their story. God meets you in the detour and is with you. He's not just only there at the destination. We also saw this morning that no one's life is as perfect. as it may seem. We also saw that healing has to come before you can move forward again. So maybe today isn't the day where you have to have it all figured out. Maybe today is the day where you just have to stop pretending like something isn't broken in your life. Let God start to heal it.

Because he's not wanting, he's not, God isn't just waiting for you in some far off destination. God is there with you right now. He's here with you in the wilderness. He's here with you in your detour. He's here with you maybe in the traffic, in the waiting. God is here working in your life. The final verse I'll leave for you this morning is from Jeremiah 29, verse 11. It says, For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not disaster, to give you future and hope. Jeremiah 29, verse 11. That's not just a promise when life is going well. That's a promise for the right now, for you and your detour, when God's still working in your life. Let's pray. God, I love the psalm we sang before the message, and it's always on time.

God, no matter what's going on in each and every one of our... our lives, God. We know that you're working. You're working in the detours. You're working in the wilderness. You're preparing our hearts for what's to come, God. There's some of us in this room that maybe this week we had plans and they didn't go the way we thought they would. God, I pray that we would be able to see you work in our lives, even if we're sad right now or frustrated or bummed out. God, we're praying this week that we're able to go through this week and be able to glorify you and praise your name. And God, we just want to thank you again for the chance we get to come here this morning to be able to worship you and to be able to be in community with one another. In Christ's name, amen.