

Chris Tomlin: Astonishing Moment That Shaped 'The Last Supper' Movie

"No one's heard it."

It's easy to chalk things up to coincidence, to believe in happy accidents and happenstance. Chris Tomlin could have very easily credited chance – random serendipity – for his timely connection to an upcoming Christian movie. But he doesn't; instead, he sees it as divine, predestined providence.

The famed recording artist and worship leader is stepping into a new role: executive producer.

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Tomlin, 52, is seated in the producer's chair for the new movie, "The Last Supper," set to debut in theaters nationwide March 14. The film, from Pinnacle Peak Pictures, the distribution studio launched nearly 20 years ago by David A.R. White of Pure Flix fame, centers on the days leading up to wayward disciple Judas' betrayal of Jesus as the Savior's closest followers gather for a final meal before His impending crucifixion.

When he was first approached by the creators of "The Last Supper," Tomlin said they asked if he had a song – or could write one – that would work for the film.

"I played a couple songs [and I said], 'I've got this one I just wrote and no one's heard it – literally, no one's heard it,'" he recalled of his conversation with the filmmakers. "[I] played it for them and I had not seen the movie when I wrote this song and it just went perfectly with this movie.

And I was like, 'OK, this feels like something that's right.'"

Finding the song tied to a theatrically released movie was certainly not on Tomlin's radar when he wrote "No Greater Love" alongside Tyler Hubbard of the country music duo Florida Georgia Line during a writing retreat at 20th century novelist Ernest Hemingway's home in Ketchum, Idaho.

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Hubbard and a couple other country songwriters told Tomlin they wanted to write a worship song with the "Holy Forever" singer, explaining they wanted the theme to focus on John 15:13, which reads, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends" (NLT).

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"Line for line, [I was] like, 'Wow, this fits so perfectly,'" he said. "It was just one of those moments you're like, 'OK, we're in the flow. ... God is in this.' He's like, 'I'm putting the pieces together. You didn't even know I was putting these pieces together, but I've got this little plan.'"

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