Everyone in life wants to leave an impact behind. That is why we love heroes – they step into situations in life and something changes for the better. President Obama won his first term in office on the theme of change. Yes we can! It resonated with masses across the world. We want to see things change. In politics, in education, in the media, in business: where we work and the different sectors of society.

To sign in for change, we must hate the status quo. We must envision the possibilities.

As we conclude this series, we want to talk about falling in love with Monday. But let me ask you to turn to the person next to you first and ask them this question:

QOD – What do you hate most or get frustrated most about Monday?

- Weekend is over and the next one is 5 days away. (Why is Monday morning so close to the weekend yet so far?)
- Back to routine or the grind of work
- Back to toxic environments and annoying colleagues
- The demands of work – deadlines, late nights, targets, etc
- Back to flat or strained relations at work, people you wish you could avoid
- Back to temptations and ethical dilemmas

In this series, TGIF, we have looked at the challenges of the workplace. We began in week 1 by stating that work is a platform to fulfill purpose and honor God. We need to find our call in what we do between Monday and Friday. God has posted you there to use your gifts, education and personality to find personal fulfillment, serve others and impact community. Labor is not just painful toil, it is an act of worship and a ministry placement. We said that there is no sacred and secular, God is in all of life.

We also saw that there are many temptations at the workplace. Ethical dilemmas are part of the marketplace landscape. It is easy to compromise our faith and values. We said when tempted, take a stand and let God.

The fourth man will show up in you and through you as you stand for what is true.

Last week we talked about power play or office politics. We saw that there will always be conflict or hostility as people fight for position, power and privileges in the marketplace. Through the politics, you should pursue excellence and let God fight for you. He will come in as the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

Is it ever possible to have TGIM? We are called to be fearless influencers at work. Why is that important? “The marketplace is the soul of the nation.” It is where it all happens. Think about it. The culture of a people is shaped in the market place. When you look at the sectors of society, you see that if any change is to take place in the nation, it must happen in these sectors. Church & Missions, Governance & Politics, Family & Education, Arts & Media, Environment & Health and Business & Economy. Life – economic, social, political and spiritual – happens there.

The rot and trouble of a people is seen in what happens in these sectors. Corruption in business, perversion in arts and entertainment, lies and deception in the media, the injustice and oppression in governance (judiciary, executive and assemblies) and the cheating in education – these are all reflections of the character of a people. These ills have to be confronted and change needs to happen right there. That is why you have been posted there – wherever you work.
The question in the hearts of many is this: *What are some practical things we can do to transform the marketplace?* How can we see the life of city reflect more of justice and righteousness? What can we do to change our spaces?

Daniel had a great national impact in Babylon through 4 administrations. Severally he caused the king to issue decree (gazette notice) for the nation to turn to the God of Daniel. God showed up in miraculous interventions. He, and his friends, did change Babylon. What can we learn from the book of Daniel?

1. **Network** – Daniel 2: 17-18

   Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

   **Dan 2:48-49** Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. Moreover, at Daniel’s request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.

The team sought God together for interpretation of the dream. Daniel was greatly rewarded, but he pleaded for his friends to be promoted as well. In Daniel 3, the three stood together against idolatry and into the furnace.

Daniel always worked with his friends as a team from the very beginning. We need to form teams at work, networks for support as we deal with temptations and impact the workplace. Life groups should be places we share our marketplace experiences for encouragement and counsel.

Get to know other Christians at work, build friendships and work together.

**Work with others to change the workplace**

2. **Prayer**: Daniel 6:10

   Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before......Daniel had his personal prayer time that strengthened his faith in governance. To overcome the challenges and demands of transformation at the workplace, you need consistent times of prayer as a Christian. Inner strength is found in our times with God.

But they also prayed together and expected miracles. In Daniel 2:17,18, they sought God together for answers to the King’s dream. They prayed against the challenges at work and sought for God’s interventions. When under attack, Daniel took time to pray for deliverance. There are spiritual warfare situations at work that need prayer.

There are those who get to the office early to pray for the office – for peace, understanding, justice and righteousness. That is commendable.

You can also take time to pray over certain situations, individuals or challenges at work. Pray for business, contracts, favor, projects, cases, and targets. Pray against temptations and evils at work. Pray for team leaders and colleagues. Pray for ideas and guidance.

**Involve God through prayer to change the workplace**

3. **Wisdom** –Daniel 1:17-20

   To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

   At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.
Daniel and his friends were given wisdom and understanding. He studied and he prayed for it. We need wisdom and understanding to lead at work in innovation and execution. Pray for ideas and pray for prophetic understanding and insight as well.

James 1:5 says: “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” We should seek for God given wisdom in what we do – leadership, singing, media, business, etc.

**Seek and grow in wisdom as a change agent**

4. **Excellence** – Daniel 6:3-5 ³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵ Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.” Give work your best. Like Daniel, distinguish yourself through an excellent spirit. Work hard, work right and work well with others.

**Pursue excellence to gain credibility as a change agent**

5. **Outreach** – Daniel ended affecting those around him with his faith story. It is no secret that they knew he was a man of faith and prayer, which is why they sought to catch him in ‘the matter of his gods’.

Reach out to those around by showing love and concern for them. Encourage those who are low, help those who need it, give counsel, offer comfort, show mercy and share your faith. Build meaning relationships at work. Essentially, the only way to experience true change is to have a heart change. Where you can, do Mizizi.

**Reach out to others and bring change to individuals**

The one lesson for today is: **You are a change agent in the marketplace.**

God would love to see his dominion, his kingdom invade every sector of society. A key theme throughout the book of Daniel is the reign of God in the affairs of men. He wants to use you and I to reveal his wisdom, power and dominion in the market place. Are you willing to be a fearless influencer at work?

What will you do as a change agent in the workplace? Will you take up the challenge? Imagine the impact of our faith being seen and experienced in schools and colleges, banks and enterprises, public service and politics, MTN and Air Uganda, Umeme and Crane Bank, in the courts and by the police, in malls and in public transport, in hospitals and in restaurants, in prisons and in parliament. Just imagine that! This will happen as you realize that You are a change agent in the marketplace.

I still believe that we can see transformation in Uganda in the next 7 years. We can see poverty levels reduce from 62% living below 2 dollars a day to 30%. I believe that we can see our software (value system) change especially in the areas of negative ethnicity, corruption, lies and dishonesty, drugs and teenage pregnancies leading to lots of abortions. I believe that we can see more people get to know the salvation and healing of Jesus Christ across this nation. Currently only 20 % of the nation does attend places of transformation like Mavuno every Sunday. We can see that number double in 7 years.

This is what God is calling you to. Wherever you work, whatever you do: **You are a change agent in the marketplace.** Network. Pray. Seek wisdom. Pursue excellence. Reach out.

This nation must be transformed. Our generation needs to experience a better lifestyle socially, morally, economically and politically. It will take transformation at the marketplace for that to happen. You are the agent of change for this nation – from Monday to Friday. So go to work every Monday in the mood of TGIM. Go there to make a difference. To bless others. To touch people’s lives. To confront
corruption. To stand for truth. To pray for God’s intervention. To work with excellence. To reflect God’s wisdom. **You are a change agent in the marketplace.** May God count on you.

I want to challenge you today to make a resolve. I want to give you a prayer that you can pray weekly as we seek to change the marketplace. Here it is:

_God Almighty, I pray that you will help me use my workplace as a platform to fulfill my purpose and honor you. I ask that you will strengthen me when tempted to take a stand and let God do the rest. I pray that you will help me pursue excellence and let you fight for me through work politics. I ask, God of all sectors, to use me as a change agent to affect my workplace, industry and sector for God._

_Amen._

**Altar Call**

- Commissioning prayer to be change agents at work
- Salvation