



CONGREGATION SHEARITH ISRAEL
The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue

Shabbat Beshalah-Shirah

January 14, 2022



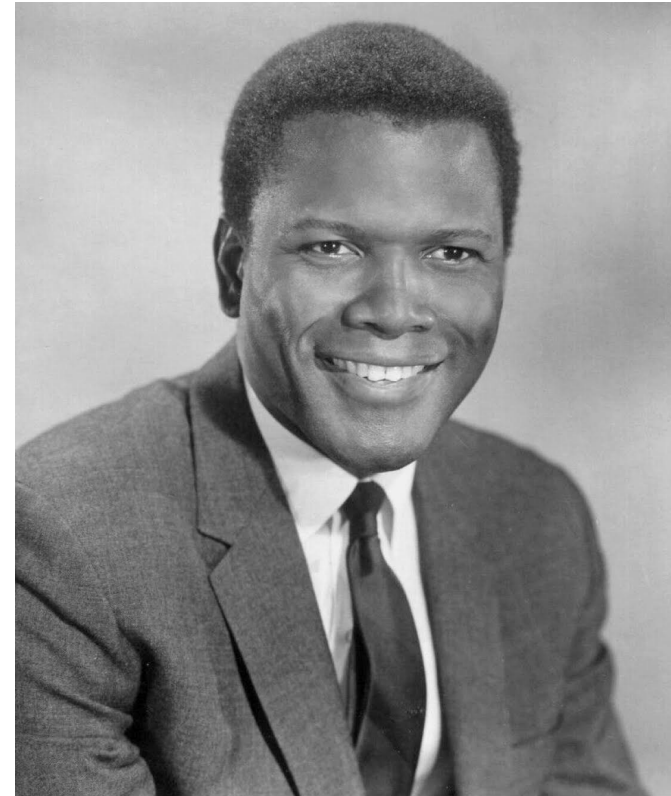
Friday Night Lights
with Rabbi Meir Soloveichik

**The Lesson of the Life of Sidney Poitier:
A Beshalah Story**

2021-2022 season sponsored by the Julis-Rabinowitz family

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1)



2) Wikipedia, American Film Institute list:

11	"What we've got here is failure to communicate." ^[7]	Captain	Strother Martin	<i>Cool Hand Luke</i>	1967
12	"I love the smell of napalm in the morning."	Lt. Col. Bill Kilgore	Robert Duvall	<i>Apocalypse Now</i>	1979
13	"Love means never having to say you're sorry."	Jennifer Cavalleri Oliver Barrett IV	Ali MacGraw Ryan O'Neal	<i>Love Story</i>	1970
14	"The stuff that dreams are made of." ^[8]	Sam Spade	Humphrey Bogart	<i>The Maltese Falcon</i>	1941
15	"E.T. phone home."	E.T.	Pat Welsh	<i>E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial</i>	1982
16	"They call me <i>Mister</i> Tibbs!"	Virgil Tibbs	Sidney Poitier	<i>In the Heat of the Night</i>	1967

3) (Sefaria)

Exodus 4 ▼



וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־יְהוָה בִּי אֲדֹנָי לֹא אִישׁ דְּבָרִים
אֲנֹכִי גַם מִתְמוּל גַּם מִשְׁלֶשֶׁם גַּם מֵאִזְ דְּבָרָךְ
אֶל־עַבְדְּךָ כִּי כְבֹד־פֶּה וְכֹבֵד לְשׁוֹן אֲנֹכִי:

But Moses said to the LORD, "Please, O Lord, I have never been a man of words, either in times past or now that You have spoken to Your servant; I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."

4) (Sefaria)

< Ibn Ezra

לְשׁוֹן מִצְרַיִם רַק כָּכָה נִוּלַד שֶׁהִיָּה כְבֹד פֶּה שֶׁלֹּא
הִיָּה יָכוֹל לְהוֹצִיא אוֹתוֹת הַשִּׁפָּה וְכָל אוֹתוֹת
הַלָּשׁוֹן. רַק קִצָּתָם הִיָּה מוֹצִיאָם בְּכוֹבֵד זֶה הוּא
טַעַם וְאֲנֹכִי אֶהְיֶה עִם פִּיךָ וְהוֹרִיתִיךָ. אָמַר
שִׁירֵינוּ אֲשֶׁר יִדְבֵּר מִלּוֹת שֶׁאֵין שֵׁם מֵאוֹתוֹת
הַכְּבוֹדוֹת עַל פִּיו:

5) Exodus 12 (Sefaria):

Exodus 15 ▼



אֲזַי שִׁיר־מֹשֶׁה וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת־הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת
לַיהוָה וַיֹּאמְרוּ לֵאמֹר {ס} אֲשִׁירָה לַיהוָה כִּי־גָאָה
גָּאָה {ס} סוֹס וְרֹכֶבֹו רָמָה בַּיָּם: {ס}

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD. They said:

I will sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously;

Horse and driver He has hurled into the sea.

6) Shiryn Ghermezian, Algemeiner:

The death of Bahamian-American trailblazing actor and director Sidney Poitier at the age of 94, announced Friday, has inspired an outpouring of tributes and remembrances, with "CBS Sunday Morning" sharing a 2013 interview in which the Academy Award winner revealed that a former Jewish coworker taught him how to read English.

The youngest of seven children, Poitier was born three months early on Feb. 20, 1927, in Miami, where his Bahamian parents travelled to sell tomatoes. He lived in the Bahamas until age of 15, when his parents sent him back to Miami to live with his older brother.

He left for New York at age 16 and tried to launch an acting career, though he had only two years of schooling and was unable to read well. However, a Jewish waiter at a restaurant where Poitier worked washing dishes devoted time to helping him, he told "CBS Sunday Morning" anchor Lesley Stahl.

Poitier recalled: "One of the waiters, a Jewish guy, an elderly man, had a newspaper and walked over to me and said, 'What's new in the paper?' And I looked up at this man and said to him, 'I can't tell you, I can't read very well.' He says, 'Let me ask you something, would you like me to read with you?' And I said to him, 'Yes, if you'd like.'"

..."Every night, the place is closed, everyone's gone, and he sat there with me, week after week after week," Poitier added. "I learned a lot, a lot. And then things began to happen."

In 1992, when Poitier was given the Life Achievement Award by the American Film Institute, he told the audience, "I must also pay thanks to an elderly Jewish waiter who took time to help a young Black dishwasher learn to read. I cannot tell you his name. I never knew it..."