

## July 24

**Jeremiah 14:7 (CJB)** Although our crimes witness against us, take action, *Adonai*, for your name's sake; for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against you.

**Jeremiah 14:20 (NIV)** <sup>20</sup> We acknowledge our wickedness, Lord, and the guilt of our ancestors; we have indeed sinned against you.

Many years ago, there was an Adopt a Highway program where people were asked to take responsibility for a section of road or highway and pick up the trash. The roads into our town were littered with trash, but, because of my love of nature, I never threw trash out the window. Therefore, the trash on the side of the road was not my problem. No one adopted the road into town, and I continued to complain about those who so blatantly trashed our roads. Then, one day, the Holy Spirit said to me, "David, this is your town."

That little conversation opened my eyes concerning our individual sins and our corporate sins. I have no trouble understanding that I am responsible for my backsliding and know I must repent. However, when I see this nation wander down that broad and crooked road, I tend to blame others. However, Jeremiah tells us that we are to acknowledge the sins, wickedness, and guilt of our ancestors and others. This view tears down the us versus them attitude that can separate us from those who do not know the Lord. When Moses first went to Pharaoh, he complained about the stubbornness of God's people. As time passed, they became his people, and his attitude changed. After the Holy Spirit spoke to me about that road, I, along with others, picked up that trash because even though I was not personally responsible for throwing down the trash, I was responsible for picking it up. We are chosen by Jesus to go into this world and "pick up the trash" and not to point fingers. This was a major revelation for me. He will forgive all who repent. He will also hold all who are guilty responsible. For us who believe and follow Him, we are the answer.