

We love birds around our house, and we have put a lot of effort into offering bird seed so that the birds can get it, but those pesky squirrels cannot. We have one feeder hung from several trees with weed-eater line, and that arrangement has been pretty successful in keeping the squirrels out. Except, of course, when I fill the feeders and forget to take the ladder away. The squirrels are appreciative, I am sure, about my mental lapse.

When I am in the process of putting out seeds, and accidentally drop some, I am tempted to pick them up because of my war against the squirrels. Sometimes with a major spill, I can retrieve most of the seeds, but usually I just feel frustrated that I have given my “enemies” a free gift.

One day, though, I was reminded of the Old Testament requirement to leave some grain (seed) so that the poor could come and glean¹ and thus be able to survive. I am definitely not worried about the “poor” squirrels’ survival, but I decided that they should be allowed to “glean” as well as I try to follow the general principles of Good.

1. Leviticus 23:22