

## HOI ANDREW: MINISTERIAL EXPENSES

**Jesus:** Hoi, Andrew! What are you up to?

**Andrew:** Hi Jesus, I was just wondering where we hand in our ministerial expenses forms?

**Jesus:** Your what?

**Andrew:** Ministerial expense forms...there's an awful lot involved in following you.

**Jesus:** Like what? Let me see that...return flights to see your mother in Scotland! Are you looking to be made some kind of saint there? And I see you went first class!

**Andrew:** I don't like to be too cramped on a long journey, Jesus, and my mother was so pleased to see me.

**Jesus:** But your mother lives in Galilee!

**Andrew:** I ken, Jesus, but she was on holiday in good old Bonnie Scotland and that was the only time I could get off from following you to see her.

**Jesus:** When did I give you time off?

**Andrew:** The Whit weekend.

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**Jesus:** Oh, never mind. And what's this...a dishwasher, a fridge-freezer, and a washing machine!

**Andrew:** Jesus, they're all allowed under the new ministerial regulations. You try doing the dishes after feeding 5000! And I needed somewhere to store the extra food that was left over – that was your doing, Jesus. The picnic cloths

were manky. And Peter dribbled all down his new tunic – I needed to wash it several times to get that stain out.

**Jesus:** You don't think you're taking these ministerial expenses too far, Andrew? I mean you're claiming for three homes allowance. How do you manage that when we often live off the goodwill of visitors and friends?

**Andrew:** All necessary, Jesus, all necessary.

**Jesus:** But your three homes include an Ark, the Vital Spark, and a 12 man tent!

**Andrew:** The Ark was just in case your Dad's promise not to flood the earth again was rescinded. And by the weather in Scotland I think I might be on a winner there! I needed another fishing boat 'cos when you told us to follow you someone else nicked our boat, hence the Vital Spark – got it at the Barras in Glasgow! And the tent we needed for our wanderings with you.

**Jesus:** But there were 13 of us altogether, Andrew.

**Andrew:** Yeh, but have you ever smelt Bartholomew's feet after a hard day on the road? None of us would have survived. I just got him a sleeping bag and parked him outside at night.

**Jesus:** I'm surprised you didn't claim for that too.

**Andrew:** I did, Jesus, it's under section 10 – staff outlays!

**Jesus:** Staff outlays! What else have got under there?

**Andrew:** Nothing that wasn't in pursuit of my ministerial duties, Jesus.

**Jesus:** Why did you feel it necessary to purchase a spring water factory in Scotland?

**Andrew:** Jesus, it's an investment. That water into wine thing you did could prove to be a money-spinner!

**Jesus:** You seem to have quite a leaning towards the Church in Scotland, Andrew. Do you know they have an Annual Inspection of Rolls and Records there, all done in accordance with the interpretation of Psalm 139 by Eugene Peterson: "God, investigate my life; get all the facts firsthand. I'm an open book before you; even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking."

**Andrew:** Bloomin' heck! I didn't realise it was that heavy!

**Jesus:** Oh, yes, they even inspect your log book now!

**Andrew:** O Jesus, not the log book! I never keep that up-to-date!

**Jesus:** Looks like you'd be better sticking it out here in the Holy Land, Andrew. Have you thought about setting up a Church in Jerusalem? You could be a witness for me here and set off visitor trips on your expenses!

**Andrew:** Sounds like a good idea, Jesus.

**Jesus:** I'll just rip up this ministerial expenses form then, eh?

**Andrew:** Better, Jesus, before it's leaked to the Sun.

**Jesus:** Andrew, I am the Son!...Get it?...the Son? Oh, never mind. Come on and I'll treat you to an irn bru, the best thing to have come out of Scotland other than you and your Mam!

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